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ISPOR 2018 Abstract

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CONTENT VALIDITY AND FEASIBILITY OF THE EQ-5D-5L, SF-12, WEMWBS AND ONS-4 IN MEASURING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELLBEING OF OLDER ADULTS.

OBJECTIVES: Old age is associated with frailty, characterised by declining health and increasing numbers of health conditions that may require complex combinations of health and social care services. These aged care services impact areas beyond solely health. Traditional measures of health-related quality of life (QoL) may not adequately describe the outcomes of interventions for older people. This study examines the content validity and feasibility of the EQ-5D-5L, SF-12, WEMWBS and ONS-4 in measuring the QoL and wellbeing of older adults.

METHODS: Qualitative interviews were undertaken with older people aged 75+. Each interview discussed two of the four measures of interest in varying combinations and orders. Think-aloud and verbal probing techniques were used to explore older peoples' views on the relevance and acceptability of included items, the suitability of response options, their interpretation of items and whether they felt the measure could give a comprehensive view of their QoL. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and analysed thematically.

RESULTS: Twenty interviews were undertaken, with each measure discussed by 10 participants. Issues with interpretation were found for some items from all measures. Participants most frequently questioned the relevance to their QoL of items related to mental issues or emotional problems. Being able to get out and about and social participation were clearly central to the QoL of older people. The SF-12 and ONS-4 layouts and questions caused some confusion. Participants often preferred the straightforward EQ-5D items to the more subjective ONS-4 and WEMWBS items.

CONCLUSION: While issues were found for all measures some clear themes emerged regarding the measurement of QoL in older people. Being able to get out and participate in social activities was of key importance, while a generational attitude of not dwelling on problems and carrying on meant respondents were unlikely to signal problems to negatively worded mental or emotional items.