Conclusions

The investigation on the available indicators can contribute to gain a broader view of the quality of children primary care and highlight potential gaps.

Key message:

- The necessity of developing quality indicators specific for children is the basis to highlight and discuss the various issues concerning the measurement of quality of care under a multidimensional perspective that includes the different stakeholders' points of view

Quality of primary care for children: Autism Spectrum Disorders and Immunization indicators in the EU MOCHA project

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Background

The lack of quality indicators for children certainly biases the identification and further implementation of appropriate measures that can drive improvements of child health. One of the main objectives of the MOCHA project is to appraise European health systems identifying key success factors that increase the quality of pediatric healthcare provision. To achieve this aim it is necessary to identify multidimensional indicators that cover different aspects and address the various stakeholder perspectives of quality.

Methods

A literature search was carried out on existing indicators regarding: immunization, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The search focused on the European projects such as RICHE (http://www.childhealthresearch.eu/) and CHILD, the WHO and UNICEF websites and documents, the available national guidelines and Google Scholar.

Results

Over 150 and 70 indicators were found for immunization and ASD/ADHD, respectively.

For immunization, almost half of the indicators were categorized as Outcome Indicators, around 25% as Structure Indicators and 11% on the Process Indicators. Most of them regarded coverage, record/archiving activities, regulation/policy and funds.

For ASD and ADHD only two Structure Indicators were found, the remaining ones being equally distributed between Process and Outcome categories. The Process Indicators were mainly focus on provider care while the Outcome Indicators split between Intermediate and Final Outcome.