

Quality of primary care for children: ASTHMA 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 paediatric 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

Quality Indicators on asthma for children over 5 years are considered, as asthma has a high prevalence rate, it is difficult to diagnose and is often associated with other symptoms, moreover it is strictly related with environmental aspects and socio-economic conditions. Therefore, asthma is a suited topic to test multidimensional quality indicators. The selection of indicators is based first on the already proposed indicators in RICHE as well as on the literature review. The proposed classification based on Mainz (2003) and Tumaini (2013) is then submitted to MOCHA experts' in order to gain consensus on the most important and main locally used indicators.

Results

The proposed classification supported by MOCHA experts' consensus will be the basis to develop a conceptual framework for SEM (Structured Equation Modelling) analysis on asthma to be performed in the next steps of the project.

Conclusions

The proposed approach can contribute to gain a broader view of the quality of children primary care, taking asthma as example. This can also help to improve the health systems' performance assessment taking into account differences in the 30 EU countries of MOCHA project.

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.