



Poster # 25

Title of poster: Delphi Study Protocol: Development of Guidelines for Selecting Patient-Reported Outcomes for Elderly Patients

Abstract

Patient-reported outcome (PRO) measures are designed to provide important information to ensure that the needs and concerns relevant to the quality of life of patients are systematically assessed. Assessment of health and quality of life is critical to the provision of high quality care that addresses the full range of and often complicated needs relevant to seriously ill elderly patients. This project is a review of research and other sources of information to establish consensus-based best practice guidelines using the Delphi Method for the selection and utilization of PRO instruments to assess the quality of life and inform the care of the seriously ill elderly patients. The purpose of this poster is to present the study protocol that describes the plan for this study. The present study consists of two stages. Stage I is a review of research and other sources of information to develop a large set of initial guidelines germane to the selection and use of PRO instruments for elderly patients. The standard approach to knowledge synthesis will be used. Evidence from various forms of knowledge from different sources will be synthesized. The recommendations of the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Coordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre) for knowledge synthesis will be followed. The EPPI-Reviewer software will be used to combine all documents into a common database, apply selection criteria corresponding to each of the review questions, conduct critical appraisals of relevant documents, establish and apply a code book to extract relevant information from each document, and facilitate the synthesis of findings. Stage II involves using the Delphi Method to generate consensus-based best practice guidelines (The Delphi method is widely used for gathering data from participants within their area of expertise. The method is designed as a group communication process with an eye towards building consensus by conducting multiple rounds of surveys to collect information from a panel of experts.). Stakeholders, experts, and various health care consumers, advocacy, and patient network group members will be invited to participate in the Delphi survey. A set of guidelines developed based on the knowledge synthesis from Stage I will be sent to the participants. Participants will be asked to rate the importance of each guideline for inclusion in the final set, provide feedback or a rationale for giving a guideline a high rating, and suggest possible additions to the list of guidelines. The list will be narrowed to include only the most highly-rated guidelines, new ones will be added based on participant recommendations, and written comments about the guidelines will be summarized. The process will be repeated until consensus is reached. Having consensus-based best practice guidelines available will help ensure that the best PRO instruments are selected and utilized to assess and improve the quality of life of seriously ill elderly patients.