Creating Recommendations on Types of Data to Present in Patient-Reported Outcome Measure Development Studies

Principal investigator

Joel Joseph Gagnier, PhD ND, MSc

Organization

University of Michigan

What was the project about?

Patient-reported outcome measures, or PROMs, are surveys that ask patients how they feel and what activities they can do. All PROMs have measurement properties. These properties help researchers understand how well the PROM was designed. For example, one property is the ability to get consistent responses over time. Another is how accurately the PROM measures how patients feel about a health problem. But researchers may not consistently report these properties in studies about PROMs.

In this study, the research team created guidance about reporting measurement properties in studies on PROM.

What did the research team do?

First, the research team reviewed 1,658 studies on PROMs. From these, the team created a list of 127 recommendations for reporting measurement properties. Then the team recruited 47 people with expertise on PROMs. The experts had published

- Guidelines for PROM measurement properties
- Manuals on PROM measurement
- Reviews of methods for creating PROMs
- Reporting guidelines for clinical research

The research team sent three rounds of online surveys to the group of experts. The group rated the

importance of each recommendation. They also suggested other reporting recommendations. The team looked at agreement among responses. If less than 70 percent of experts agreed with a recommendation, the team revised it and sent it out again for review.

What were the results?

The study resulted in a final set of 71 reporting recommendations that included

- 35 for all studies about PROMs
- 36 for specific measurement properties, such as accuracy or ability to get consistent responses

What were the limits of the project?

The experts who took part in this study may have specific views on measurement. The final set of recommendations may have differed if the study had included experts from other backgrounds.

Future research could develop reporting recommendations for other aspects of PROMs, such as when researchers test how well PROMs work across cultures.

How can people use the results?

Researchers can use the guidance to report useful information in studies on PROMs.

To learn more about this project, visit www.pcori.org/Gagnier345.