The German version of the Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (G-ACIC): Instrument translation and cultural adaptation

Summary / Zusammenfassung

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: In Switzerland there is a dearth of information on the extent to which patients with chronic illnesses receive care congruent with the Chronic Care Model (CCM). To drive quality improvement programs, compare different health care settings, and evaluate intervention studies, it is necessary to have practical assessment tools in the country’s own language to evaluate the delivery of CCM activities.

METHODS: German translation and adaptation of the original ACIC (Assessment of Chronic Illness Care). We followed a sequential forward and backward translation approach. In a multidisciplinary committee review the original English version and the translations were compared, instructions and formats modified and cross-cultural equivalences verified. The second version was pretested and multidisciplinary group discussion led to the final version which aimed to create a comprehensive culturally adapted translation capturing the original idea of the items rather than a direct one to one translation.

RESULTS: Difficulties encountered during the translation process consisted in the difference of health care settings and health care organization in Switzerland and USA. The adapted German version was delivered to a managed care organisation in the city of Zurich to test the initial use for diabetes care. The average ACIC subscale scores were: Organization of the healthcare delivery system: m = 7.31 (SD = 0.79), community linkages: m = 3.78 (SD = 1.09), self-management support: m = 4.88 (SD = 1.21), decision support: m = 4.79 (SD = 1.16); delivery system design: m = 5.56 (SD = 1.28), and clinical information systems: m = 4.50 (SD = 2.69). Overall, the ACIC subscale scores were comparable to the scores of the original testing.

CONCLUSIONS: The German version of the ACIC is applicable as a tool to guide quality improvement in chronic illness care in German speaking countries in Europe.

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