Content validation of a modified translated version of the medication discrepancy tool

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Background and Objective

Medication discrepancies are specific medication errors related to the transfer of patients between different settings of care. The only validated tool to identify and categorize such discrepancies is the medication discrepancy tool (MDT; Smith, 2004). However, the interrater reliability was modest. This could be improved with detailed specifications (fig.1). Content validation of this new version of the MDT is then necessary.

Design

The MDT was translated in French and specifications were introduced. Content validity consists of a two-stage process (development and judgment quantification). For the first stage, modifications of the new version of the instrument were based on a literature review to determine if additional items or sections should be included in the tool. For the second stage, a panel of experts was recruited to assess different aspects of the content of the tool (fig.2). The Content Validity Index (CVI), a measure which indicates the proportion of members who endorsed an element as content valid, was determined. It was calculated at item-(I-CVI) and tool-level (S-CVI). Average deviation mean index (Adm) was used to evaluate interrater agreement. A second round was conducted to assess modifications of the instrument resulting from the first validation round.

Setting

Eleven health care professionals (HCPs) (nurse, doctors and pharmacists) interested in the field of patient transfer or having clinical experience in managing patient transition were recruited as experts for the first validation round. Three HCPs (nurse, doctor, and pharmacist) participated in the second round.

Main Outcome Measures

I-CVI, S-CVI and Adm to determine items to revise or to discard and items to add to the instrument.

Results

A total of 45 items were comprised in the three sections of the modified instrument (type of discrepancy, cause, and intervention). Items to describe type of discrepancy were added. A definition was given to each section and each item was described with a definition and an example (fig.3). One example describing the use of the tool was also added. After the first content validation round of this new version of the instrument, several modifications were made, including: definitions of the three sections were modified, 9 items were pooled with another item, 2 items were added, and 30 items were modified at title-, definition- or example-level (fig.4). The second round enabled us to validate these modifications.

Conclusion

Content validation of the modified translated MDT was realised. The next objective will be to calculate the interrater reliability of this new version of the instrument.

References