

# Measuring health from a broad perspective: preferences assessed among various professional stakeholder groups

## Introduction

Measurement of health by means of patient-reported outcome measure instruments (OMIs) is performed by different professional stakeholders such as healthcare providers, policy makers and researchers.

Health is increasingly considered from a broad perspective, asking for the development of new OMIs. Instrument development would benefit from an analysis of stakeholder preferences regarding health measurement.

**Aim:** To identify the properties of new instruments to measure broad health concepts as desired by different professional stakeholder groups.

## Methods

A survey was conducted to assess preferences for outcome measures to be developed of three stakeholder groups:



Medical professionals



Professionals in policy and governance



Researchers

Respondents obtained through purposive sampling, snowball sampling and social media channels

Survey questions	Answer options
Measurement subject	<i>functioning, experienced health, satisfaction, biomedical aspects, other</i>
Target population	<i>patients, citizens, specific groups</i>
Patient/citizen input	<i>yes, no, no opinion</i>
Outcome type	<i>quantitative, qualitative, combination, other</i>
Score weighting	<i>no weighting, individual weighting, societal weighting, other</i>
Method	<i>Questionnaire, interview, new technologies, other</i>
Length (# items)	<i>0-5, 6-10, 11-20, 21-30, &gt; 30, other</i>

## Results

- Broad interest across all stakeholders in measuring functioning, experienced health and satisfaction. Biomedical measurements fall behind (*fig 1a*)
- Medical professional prefer to target patients, professionals in policy and governance prefer citizens and researchers have varying preferences (*fig 1b*)
- Medical professionals are more in favor of longer surveys than other stakeholders (*fig 1c*)
- Most respondents prefer a mix of quantitative and qualitative outcomes (*fig 1d*)
- Medical professionals preferred individual weights of different domains, while policy makers preferred societal weighting (*fig 1e*)
- Most respondents show interest in questionnaires and modern technologies such as apps and wearables (*fig 1f*)
- Most respondents would be in favor of letting patients and citizens add topics of personal value to the OMI

## Conclusions

Preferences in measuring health are not strictly tied to stakeholder groups and even within individual respondents various preferences exist. This indicates that a single, uniform new OMI might not suffice, and several versions of an OMI might be needed to fulfill all user needs and ensure measurement tailoring to various measurement purposes.

Future research should focus on promising opportunities in measuring health, including the use of modern technologies such as apps and wearables, patient and citizen input in topic selection and combining quantitative and qualitative outcome measurement.

