

Undertaking studies to inform public policy: Managing data collection to ensure data quality in the EQ-5D-5L UK valuation through the use of independent quality control assessments

Rowen D¹, Mukuria C¹, Cooper S², Bray N³, Carlton J, Longworth L⁴, Meads D⁵, Oluboyede Y⁴, O'Neill C^{6,7}, Yang Y⁸

¹Sheffield Centre for Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield, UK; ²National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, London, UK; ³Academy for Health Equity, Prevention and Wellbeing, Bangor University, UK;

⁴Putnam PHMR Ltd, UK; ⁵Academic Unit of Health Economics, University of Leeds, UK; ⁶Centre for Public Health, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland; ⁷National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland;

⁸Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford, UK

Objectives

Research studies used to inform public policy should be rigorous, well-conducted and transparent. Primary data and analyses can be assessed once the study is complete, but at that point raw data quality cannot be improved. The UK valuation of EQ-5D-5L, which is urgently required to inform policy including health technology assessments submitted to NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence,) is using in-built independent data quality assessments during primary data collection to make ongoing assessments of quality.

Methods

Twelve hundred interviews have been undertaken using the time trade-off technique, using the EQ-VT (EuroQol Valuation Technology) interviewing system (version 2.1, see Fig 1) with a representative sample of the UK population.



The study benefits from public involvement and input from EuroQol's EQ-VT support team, an independent Quality Control (QC) team and a Steering Group (See Fig 2).



The EQ-VT support team undertake weekly data monitoring at the aggregate and interviewer level throughout data collection to monitor data quality and identify issues.



The Quality Control team independently assess the data at pilot stage, 20%, 40% and 60% data collection, and assess the final dataset and analyses.



At each of these stages the decision to continue and/or refine data collection is made by the Steering Group, comprised of representatives from NICE, National Health Service (NHS) England, Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), international experts and EuroQol scientific leaders.

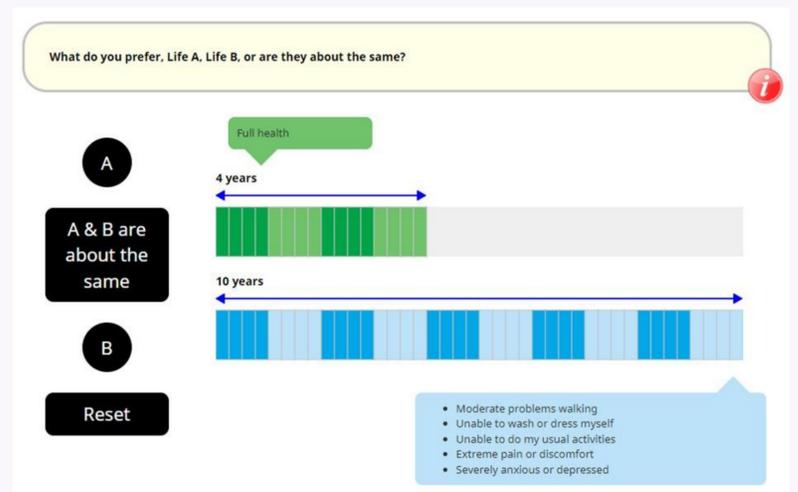
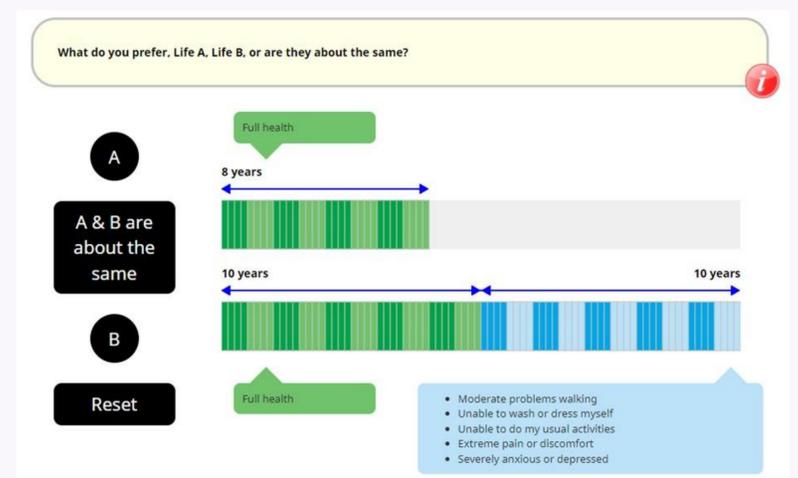


Figure 1: Example screenshots of EQ-VTv2.1

a)TTO screenshot for valuing a state considered better than dead



b)TTO screenshot for valuing a state considered better than dead

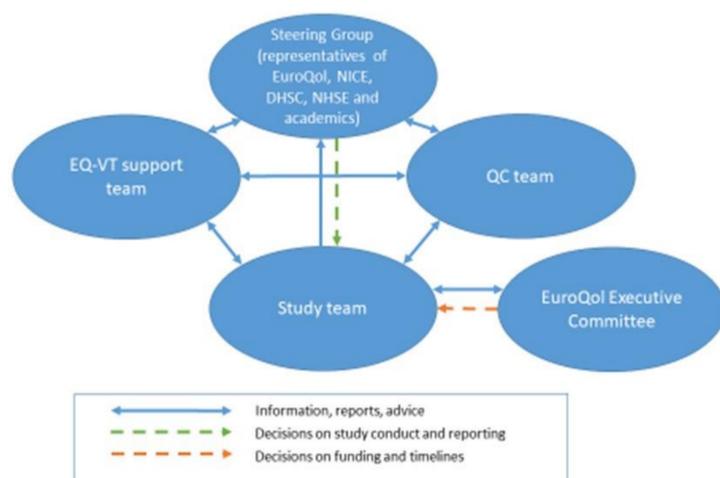


Figure 2: Study governance

Results and conclusion

Results: Following a successful pilot, with retraining of and feedback to interviewers as required after initial interviews, data collection has been undertaken, with no substantial modifications to data collection required.

All interim analyses indicated that data quality is acceptable. Final data analysis is ongoing.

Conclusion: Independent assessments of primary data during its collection can be undertaken to identify any issues arising promptly. This enables amendments to be made during data collection, where changes are possible, rather than finding the data has unresolvable issues once data collection is complete.

Protocol available: Rowen D, et al. UK valuation of EQ-5D-5L, a generic measure of health-related quality of life: A study protocol, Value in Health (forthcoming).