

## DEVELOPMENT OF A PATIENT EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL SCORING SHEET

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**Purpose:** A dilemma facing many healthcare providers is how to systematically analyze the appropriateness of patient educational materials, whether in printed materials, video, audiotapes, software, or electronic formats. Mosivais and Reynolds (2002) reported that more than 23 million adults in the United States do not understand the instructions or educational materials provided by healthcare providers. Therefore, the selection of appropriate patient educational materials is imperative to assist the individual to comply with treatment regimens, make informed healthcare decisions, manage chronic illness, or seek preventive services. The purpose of this poster presentation is to describe a process for the evaluation of patient educational materials to assist healthcare providers select the most suitable resources available for client education.

**Method:** PubMed, CINAHL, PsychoInfo databases were searched for the last 25 years to identify research studies and articles related to evaluation of patient educational materials. Reference lists of the obtained articles were reviewed in addition to a search of the World Wide Web. The search resulted in the location of three patient education evaluation tools designed to evaluate printed materials, although one tool has been successfully applied to the evaluation of audiovisual and audiotape materials. Additionally, limited reliability and validity testing of the measurement instruments were reported in the literature. Most of the articles located describe the criteria necessary to determine the appropriateness of patient educational materials, but do not describe a process for evaluation.

**Findings:** As a result of the literature review, a tool was developed to assist healthcare professionals identify suitable patient educational materials. The tool consists of seven main criteria, which include: Content, Literacy, Graphics, Layout and Typography, Motivating Principles, Cultural Relevance, and Feasibility. Each broad criteria was further subdivided into specific evaluation criterion which are rated on a scale of "0" (not suitable) to "2" (superior rating). Educational materials achieving higher scores are considered to be more appropriate for client education. The tool has undergone initial psychometric testing for content validity by a panel of experts and inter-rater reliability testing on six different heart failure educational materials, with five of the seven criteria achieving a satisfactory reliability co-efficient of 0.70 or greater.

**Discussion:** The selection of the most appropriate patient educational material is imperative for healthcare professionals to assist the client to comply with treatment regimens and make informed healthcare decisions. Further psychometric testing and instrument refinement are essential in order for the Educational Material Evaluation Scoring Sheet to be used satisfactorily by healthcare providers in determining the most suitable patient educational materials.