Establishing a Welsh language version of the PROMIS-10

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Introduction

Despite the growing need for language and cultural awareness in health research, there is a paucity of measures available in Welsh to enhance the reliability and validity of instruments as outcome measures for trials and research studies conducted in the bilingual context of Wales. LLais is embedded in the NWORTH Trials Unit and funded by Health and Care Research Wales to identify, prioritise and develop Welsh translations and linguistic validations of health measures for the research infrastructure across Wales; and explore ways of establishing the psychometric validation data to examine their response amongst different populations.

Aims and objectives of PROMIS-10 validation

To prioritise and establish a Welsh language version of the PROMIS-10 health outcome measure through:

• Undertaking the translation and linguistic validation of a Welsh language version of the PROMIS-10 measure to benefit the clinical as well as research context

• Making the Welsh version of the PROMIS-10 measure available on the interactive web resource, Mi-CYM http://micym.org/llais/static/index.html, to aid accessibility for clinicians and researchers.

Methods

A lengthy step-by-step process with quality control steps and cognitive testing was undertaken to ensure that both conceptual and semantic equivalence are achieved. The steps were as follows. (See http://micym.org/llais/static/translations.html)

Findings

As well as professional translators, a language terminologist, and healthcare professionals, twelve members of the RHOI LLAIS database gave their opinion on a version of the Welsh language PROMIS-10 in focus group sessions or in face to face interviews to ensure clarity of the questions. Changes were made to the wording based on these discussions and final comments from the language terminologist. Example changes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Pre-final version</th>
<th>English translation</th>
<th>Final version</th>
<th>English translation</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global 01</td>
<td>Yn gyfrolin</td>
<td>In general</td>
<td>Ar y cyfrin</td>
<td>On the whole</td>
<td>On the whole is equivalent to ‘in general’, but ‘ar y cyfrin’ (on the whole) favoured by participants and terminologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global 08</td>
<td>Pa mor dda yr ychydig yr chwarae diweddarach a chyflogiad ym mynd</td>
<td>How good are you at carrying out your usual social duties in general?</td>
<td>Pa mor dda yr ychydig yr chwarae diweddarach a chyflogiad ym mynd</td>
<td>How well do you carry out your usual social duties on the whole?</td>
<td>‘Ychydig yr’ (very often) was abbreviated to ‘ychydig’ (applied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global 10</td>
<td>Ym and drawen</td>
<td>Very often</td>
<td>Ym drawen</td>
<td>Completely</td>
<td>The word was ‘completely’ in the English version and ‘ydrawen’ was accepted as a change to the final Welsh version.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

Since June 2018, the PROMIS-10 has been available for practitioners and researchers to use in Wales. It is hoped that this free to use tool will be of benefit in facilitating patients and participants to participate in Welsh. The LLais linguistic validation work makes significant contribution towards establishing robust systems to ensure conduct and delivery of clinical trials of the highest quality that meet regulatory and governance requirements whilst advancing methodological approaches of international significance. To date, 43 outcome measures are listed on the micym.org website and around 40 of these have been linguistically validated by LLais, NWORTH Trials Unit with hugely appreciated support and contribution from the members of the RHOI LLais database (see http://nwworth-ctu.bangor.ac.uk/llais/rohi-llais.php.en).