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## Evaluating Rehabilitation Outcome Measures Against Consumer Perspectives As Expressed In Individual Rehabilitation Goals.

### Abstract

Results of a recently completed study are presented in which client goals, set in the course of community rehabilitation, were treated as a qualitative data source against which to evaluate the content and construct validity of key outcome measures. The study comprised the development and refinement of a 'taxonomy' for classifying client-initiated rehabilitation goals. Over 3000 goal statements were extracted from client records (from a two-year period across two community rehabilitation services for people with brain injuries). These statements were categorized and analysed using the taxonomy to develop a profile of client need and aspiration - as expressed in individual rehabilitation goals. The taxonomy was then used by 15 expert clinicians to categorise the content of each item of three major outcome measures. The resulting profiles (classification of content areas of client goals vs classification of content areas of outcome measures) hold considerable interest. Methodology is detailed and comparative results are presented showing convergence and discrepancy between the content areas of key outcome measures and the expressed needs of clients. Advantages and pitfalls of using such data and methods to inform the area of outcome measurement are discussed.

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