



Spanish Health Care Utilization

1. ¿Cuántas veces ha visitado al médico durante los últimos 6 meses?
(Si estuvo en el hospital, no incluya estas visitas.) _____ veces

2. Cuántas veces visitó la sala de emergencia en los últimos 6 meses?
(No incluya visitas a clínicas de atención inmediata.) _____ veces

3. ¿En cuántas diferentes ocasiones ha estado hospitalizado, por una noche o más, en los últimos 4 meses? _____ veces

4. ¿Cuántas **noches** en total estuvo hospitalizado, toda la noche, en los últimos 6 meses? _____ noches

Scoring

These are single items. We have found that we often have to follow up with telephone clarification for these items, no matter how they are written. You will need to figure out how stringent you want to be in your own research. For example, do you want to count an ER visit that resulted in an in-patient admission? Do you want to distinguish between acute and SNF nights in hospital (patients often can't distinguish)? Do you want to clarify whether the physician visits include infusions, allergy shots, dialysis, or diagnostic tests?

Characteristics

Tested on 317 Spanish-speaking subjects.

Item Name	Observed Range	Mean	Standard Deviation	Internal Consistency Reliability	Test-Retest Reliability
Physician visits	0-22	2.40	2.13	—	NA
Emergency dept visits	0-3	0.167	0.484	—	NA
Times hospitalized	0-3	0.095	0.361	—	NA
Nights hospitalized	0-22	0.315	1.80	—	NA

Source of Psychometric Data

Spanish speaking diabetics in the Stanford/El Paso Border Diabetes Project. Report for publication in process.

Comments

There is no perfect way to get self-reported utilization data-do not try for a time period of more than six months. The article below discusses the validity of these questions.

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References

Ritter PL, Kaymaz H, Stewart A, Sobel DS, Lorig KR, Self-reports of health care utilization compared to provider records. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 2001, 54, pp.136-141.

Lorig K, Stewart A, Ritter P, González V, Laurent D, & Lynch J, *Outcome Measures for Health Education and other Health Care Interventions*. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage Publications, 1996, pp.24-25.

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