Introduction

- Long-term chronic conditions are the main challenge of health and social care services today due to their increasing prevalence and complexity, including multi-morbidity.
- Monitoring patient perspectives of their health and well-being is a key focus of UK health care policy. Professional and lay stakeholders support the development of a new measure for long-term conditions (LTCs).
- This work builds on initial item development for the Long-Term Conditions Questionnaire (LTCQ) (Poster 3037), a short self-report measure for people living with a broad range of LTCs (including physical and mental health).
- The LTCQ is intended to be used across both health and social care services, on its own or as a complement to the EQ-SD.

Methods

- Three rounds of cognitive interviews were undertaken with people living with a wide range of LTCs. Participants completed the LTCQ in the presence of the interviewer and then discussed their responses. Interviews were audio-recorded and focused on the content, meaningfulness and usefulness of the LTCQ.
- Professional and lay stakeholders were mailed the draft LTCQ and prompted to comment on its content and relevance.
- A translatability assessment was undertaken for seven diverse languages: Arabic, French, Polish, Punjabi, simplified Chinese, Urdu, and the original English.
- Items were reviewed and revised by the authors at the end of each step of the process (four revisions in total).

Summary

- The LTCQ has undergone extensive cognitive testing with potential users.
- All 20 refined items were found to be relevant, indicating content validity.
- Stakeholders confirmed the LTCQ’s broad relevance for both mental and physical health conditions, and across health and social care services.
- A rigorous translatability assessment raised no fundamental concerns for the LTCQ’s use in other languages but prompted further clarification of items.

First draft LTCQ containing 23 items, developed from:
- Literature reviews
- Interviews with professional stakeholders (N=29)
- Interviews with patients (N=42)

Cognitive Interviews, round 1
- 13 participants (7 women, 6 men), age range 36-88 years
- Combined experience of 18 LTCs (physical & mental health)
- Took between 3 and 10 minutes to complete the LTCQ

Stakeholder Consultation
- 5 lay responses (draft 1), then 13 professional responses
- The measure covered items of value and importance to LTCs
- Broad relevance across health and social care

Cognitive Interviews, round 2
- 9 participants (5 women, 4 men), age range 45-80 years
- Experience of 11 LTCs
- Took 1-7 minutes to complete
- Two items added and two items extensively revised

Translatability Assessment
- Specialist assessment for potential use of the LTCQ in seven diverse languages
- No fundamental concerns
- Minor revision to five items for greater clarity

Cognitive Interviews, round 3
- 10 participants (6 women, 4 men), age range 30-79 years
- Experience of 18 LTCs
- Average 5 minutes to complete
- All items retained, one item revised, translatability check

Revised LTCQ
- 20 items, relevant across health and social care
- Includes less traditional dimensions such as empowerment, treatment burden, and self-care
- To be validated through a large-scale survey of both health and social care users

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