

Towards better Geriatric Rehabilitation by Structural Measuring and Evaluation of Patient Outcomes

Introduction

Geriatric Rehabilitation aims to restore functioning and participation in older persons after an acute functional deterioration. The University Network for the Care Sector South-Holland (UNC-ZH), initiated a roadmap for a core set of generic measurement instruments to evaluate outcomes and enhance Geriatric Rehabilitation quality.

Aims

- (1) Structural and unambiguous use and evaluation of patient outcomes
- (2) Benchmark between Geriatric Rehabilitation departments
- (3) Scientific research.

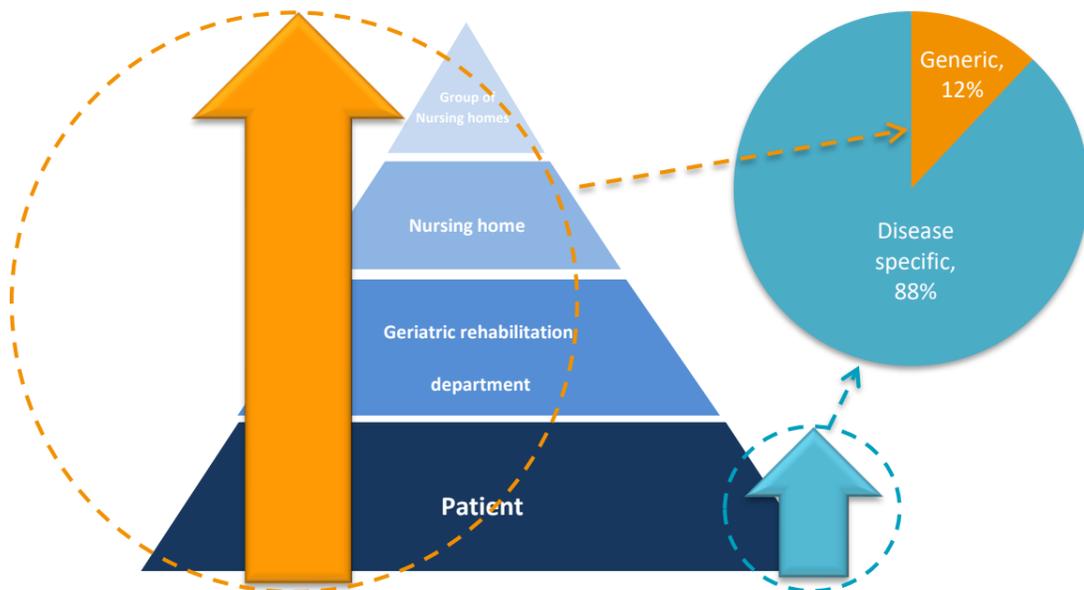
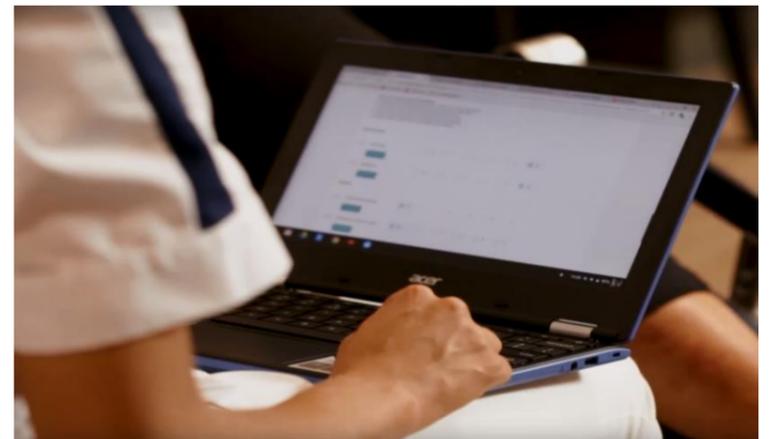


Fig. 1. Measuring levels in the Assessment of already used instruments

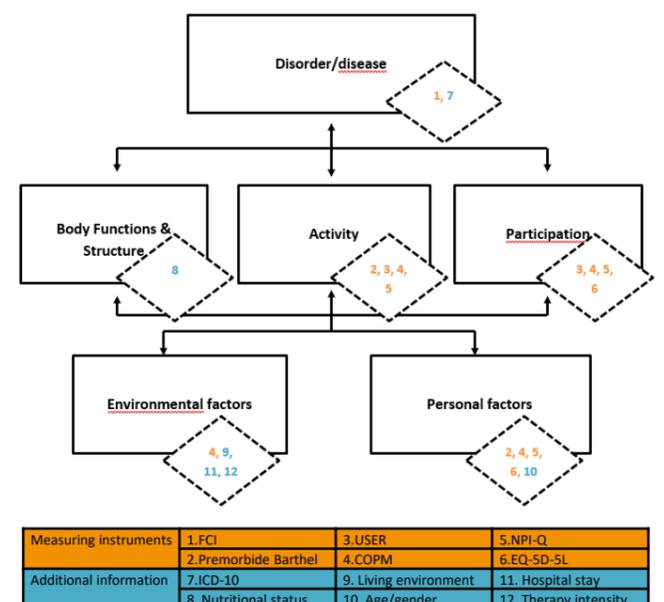


Fig. 2. Core set of generic measurement instruments in the domains of the ICF

Methods

The core set was developed by (1) literature review, (2) assessment of already used measurement instruments within the UNC-ZH (fig 1), (3) discussions with experts to reach consensus.

Besides the core set was built into a software application, by which the set is linked to an electronic patient file. This linkage made

it possible to work digitized in a multidisciplinary geriatric rehabilitation setting. Finally there was a pilot implementation within the UNC-ZH, in which healthcare professionals were asked to test the usability of the core set in daily practice.



Results

Literature review found no basis for a valid core set of instruments, but our full procedure resulted in a core set with valid measures for comorbidity (*Functional Comorbidity Index*), functioning and participation (*Premorbid Barthel Index*, *Utrechtse Scale Evaluation Rehabilitation*, *Canadian Occupational Performance Measure*, *Neuro Psychiatric-Questionnaire*), and quality of life (*EuroQol-5 Dimensions-5 Levels*). The set is

completed with additional information; *age, gender, living environment, nutritional status, hospital stay, therapy intensity* and *ICD-10 diagnoses*. The set covers all domains of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (fig.2). In the pilot, professionals were positive regarding the usefulness of the instruments, but some practical concerns about the digital application were revealed.

Conclusion

The need for benchmarking, research and quality improvement in Geriatric Rehabilitation is evident-however, evidence is scarce. These are first steps in implementation and validation of a core set of generic instruments, in which the need for European cooperation is evident.