

Can Patient-Reported Measures and Outcomes (PROs) Improve Routine HIV Consultations? A Targeted Review of the Literature23

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Introduction

- Optimal HIV care requires consideration of several patient factors that are difficult to assess within routine consultations; these include mental health, adherence, symptom burden and risky behaviors (eg, substance misuse). Often these are not measured well in clinical care<sup>1</sup>
- Patient-reported outcome (PRO) insights gathered just prior to a consultation and provided to a health care professional (HCP) can provide insights to support informed decision making<sup>2</sup>
- This study conducted a targeted literature review on the value of PROs within routine clinical care across all therapeutic areas
  - Specifically, we focused on evidence regarding PROs enhancing patient–HCP communication, patient experience, and health outcomes; we also considered broader stakeholder and service impact

Methods

- A targeted PubMed search was conducted of publications between 2006 and 2017 with data extraction performed by 2 researchers. Grey research supplemented the search results. Pre-determined inclusion and exclusion criteria were used to screen potential evidence and filter for routine care–focused citations
- The review synthesized the evidence and reported this in relation to specific research questions. These included the impact upon:
  - Health outcomes
  - Patient–HCP communication
  - Patient experience
  - The operation of clinics

Results

- Of the 786 citations identified, 34 were selected for data extraction and synthesis. Thirteen were oncology related; 9 HIV. Twenty were reviews or expert opinion papers (Figure 1). The key findings were as follows:
- Multiple scholars report the conceptual relationship between the routine use of PROs and health outcomes, whereas several studies report positive effects, particularly on symptoms, side effects, toxicity, and emotional well-being
- PROs can increase the identification of complex health and risky behavioral or social functioning issues that may otherwise might go underreported (eg, depression, adherence, substance misuse)
- The monitoring of treatment response can be supported by PROs
- The routine collection of PROs can facilitate improved communication, improved patient–HCP dialogue, and patient satisfaction
- PRO data can be used to facilitate effective communication by providing a patient-focused frame of reference for HCPs to engage and facilitate patient-centered care
- Few studies report a robust assessment of the impact of PROs on clinic operations and effectiveness

Figure 1. Study Selection Process Flowchart

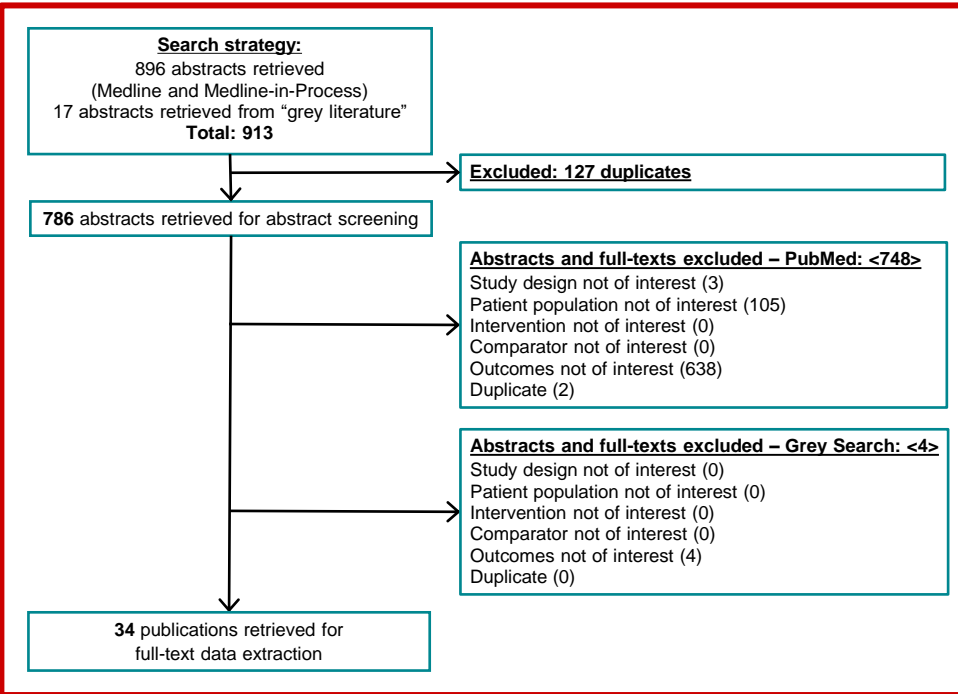


Table 1. Identified Studies by Disease, Study Type, and Relevance to Research Questions

Study type	Reviews & expert opinions	Field & clinical studies	Total	Relevance to research questions
Arthritis		1	1	High
Elective surgery	2		2	High
HIV	2	7	9	Medium
Conceptual papers	7		7	Medium
Oncology	7	6	13	High
Multiple diseases (including mental health, COPD, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, palliative and secondary care)	2		2	Medium
Total	20	14	34	

Discussion

- This was a targeted literature review and as such has the caveat of identifying studies only based on the search terms used. Specifically, we chose this review to focus on researching the use and utility of PROs implemented within routine care settings. This differentiated evidence from aggregate PRO use within RCT protocols, which were not included in the search. This gave us a very specific dataset
- We further acknowledge that our targeted approach may not have identified relevant evidence that is not focused on reporting PROs in this generalized context; for example, studies reporting individual instruments used for screening may not be identified. This wider review of the literature is part of our ongoing work to build an evidence summary of routine PRO use, but it was not part of this initial study
- Our focused review, however, did identify expert opinions and reviews across multiple therapeutic areas that support the need for routinely collecting PROs in clinical practice. Benefits to HCP–patient communication have been demonstrated, as has a role for PROs in the identification and monitoring of health and patient behaviors that can lead to direct action by HCPs
- Opinion regarding PROs and their role in improving health outcomes is growing, although our review identified this as mostly conceptual. This may reflect the required resource and inherent difficulties for studies to clearly substantiate direct benefits of a PRO intervention
- There appears to be less literature regarding the process of implementation and the impact on clinic operations and effectiveness

Conclusions

- The qualitative synthesis of the evidence, mainly from oncology, indicates benefits of PROs for routine care. These include impacts upon patient–HCP communication and detection of concerns relating to health and behaviors. Nevertheless, few studies have attempted to capture these as a primary focus
- Further research is required, including investigation of implementation learns, acceptability to providers and patients, clinical relevance, affordability, and impact on clinical workflow

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**References**  
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