The Study Medication Satisfaction Questionnaire (SMSQ)

User Guidelines

The SMSQ is owned by its author, Professor Clare Bradley, and licensed by Health Psychology Research Ltd. ("HPR"). Users must have a licence from HPR, which is contactable either via its website at www.healthpsychologyresearch.com or by email at info@healthpsychologyresearch.com

Introduction

The SMSQ is a new self-completion measure designed specifically for studies investigating the value of medication for the prevention of HIV where participants do not have HIV. The SMSQ is suitable for use in both routine clinical care and clinical trials. The SMSQ was adapted from the widely used HIV Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire (HIVTSQ: Woodcock and Bradley, 2001, 2006) in 2014 by the copyright holder of the HIVTSQ, Clare Bradley and her team in consultation with HIV specialist clinicians.

The HIVTSQ was designed specifically to measure treatment satisfaction for people infected with HIV (Woodcock and Bradley, 2001, 2006) and was based on the format of the eight-item Diabetes Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire (DTSQ) (Bradley and Lewis, 1990; Bradley, 1994), used extensively with people with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes (e.g., Bradley and Speight, 2002; DAFNE Study Group, 2002; Witthaus, Stewart and Bradley, 2001; Bradley and Gilbride, 2008).

Distinct from the HIVTSQ, the SMSQ refers to 'medication' in place of previous references to 'treatment'. The SMSQ also removes all wording referring to the treatment/medication being for HIV and excludes Item 2 of the HIVTSQ 'How well controlled do you feel your HIV has been recently?' but otherwise asks about convenience and other features of treatment, just as in the HIVTSQ (see Figure 1).

1. How satisfied are you with your current medication?
very satisfied   6   5   4   3   2   1   0   very dissatisfied

Figure 1: Example of an item included in the SMSQs

Description of the SMSQs and SMSQc

The SMSQ comes in a status (SMSQs) and change (SMSQc) version. The status version can be used at various time points during the study while the change version is usually used only once, perhaps at endpoint or at 12 months, where endpoint is more than 12 months after the study start. The SMSQs and the SMSQc also comes in two lengths. An 8-item short version and an 11-item full version. If brevity is paramount the 8-item short version should be chosen. If a more detailed analysis of

medication satisfaction is required, the 11-item version is recommended. Both versions have undergone psychometric evaluation and both demonstrate a clean strong structure and excellent internal consistency reliability (>0.9).

SMSQs and SMSQc: Choosing which version to use and when

The SMSQs may be used without the SMSQc. It is anticipated that the SMSQs will be sensitive to change, however the SMSQc is designed to enhance that sensitivity by allowing those who were satisfied at baseline to express even greater satisfaction at follow-up, as has been found with the HIVTSQ (e.g. Woodcock and Bradley, 2006) and the DTSQ (e.g. Bradley et al., 2007). Because the SMSQc asks respondents to compare their current study medication with a previous medication, the SMSQc is only appropriate for use when study participants have been using another form of medication prior to the introduction of the study medication in use at the time of administration of the SMSQc. Study participants need to have at least 4 weeks' experience of any study medication before the SMSQs is first completed to ensure that they have sufficient experience of the medication and any side effects, inconveniences etc. before they respond to the questions.

Whether or not you use the SMSQc, you always need to use the SMSQs at least once during your study, preferably at 4 weeks after the introduction of the study medication. If a second study medication is subsequently introduced and you go on to use the SMSQc, the early use of the SMSQs will anchor your findings on the SMSQc. The SMSQc will tell you how people's satisfaction has changed; it does not tell you whether it was high or low to start with, or where it is at endpoint. We recommend that you use the SMSQs at baseline and endpoint (and at one or more interim points in a 12-month trial) and the SMSQc (if used) at one follow-up only.

Conditions of use of the SMSQs & SMSQc

The SMSQ status and change versions are made available to users by formal arrangement with the copyright holder, Professor Clare Bradley via Health Psychology Research Ltd, which licences her questionnaires. Requests should be made to Health Psychology Research Ltd [see *Contact Information*]. A user agreement is necessary to avoid breach of copyright and to ensure that the latest and most appropriate version of the questionnaire is used.

Contact Information

For permission to use the HIVTSQ and to ensure that you have the most up-to-date versions, please contact:

E-mail: info@healthpsychologyresearch.com
Website: www.healthpsychologyresearch.com

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