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INTERMED SELF-ASSESSMENT: DEVELOPING AN INSTRUMENT TO EVALUATE BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL COMPLEXITY

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Introduction: INTERMED is a method to assess biopsychosocial case complexity and a screening instrument to identify patients with multiple care needs. It is based on an interview, brief and easy to use, that can be conducted also by a nurse. Various studies in the last 10 years have confirmed its face-validity and reliability as a clinimetric tool. Its self-assessment version (IM-SA) was developed for further implementation in clinical settings.

Aim: To evaluate language, structure and fluency of the IM-SA questionnaire.

Methods: IM-SA, Italian version 1.0, was administered to 25 patients admitted to an internal medicine ward and to other 25 in the waiting room of a Primary Care outpatient clinic. At the end of the questionnaire, nine extra-questions were specifically added to evaluate comprehension and difficulties encountered by patients while filling in the questionnaire.

Results: Patients admitted to the hospital scored higher and were found to be "more complex" ($p < .01$). 90% of respondents found the questionnaire easy to answer and 96% answered that the structure of the sentences was not too complex. The majority of patients found IM-SA useful and/or interesting. Contradictions in results also were found, suggesting need for improvement of structural and linguistic properties of the tool.

Conclusion: IM-SA seems to be a feasible and reliable self-assessment method to evaluate biopsychosocial complexity. Further similar studies in different languages are being organized to reach a final version of IM-SA, which will be afterwards compared to the IM professional interview.