Health Care Utilization

1. **In the past 6 months**, how many times did you visit a physician?  
   *Do NOT include visits while in the hospital or the hospital emergency room.*  
   .......... ___________ visits

2. **In the past 6 months**, how many times did you go to a hospital emergency room?  
   .......... ___________ times

3. How many different times did you stay in a hospital overnight or longer **in the past 6 months**?  
   .. ........................................................................................................... ___________ times

4. How many total NIGHTS did you spend in the hospital **in the past 6 months**?  
   ...... ___________ nights

**Scoring**

These are single items. We have found that we often have to follow up with telephone clarification for these items, no matter how they are written. You will need to figure out how stringent you want to be in your own research. For example, do you want to count an ER visit that resulted in an in-patient admission? Do you want to distinguish between acute and SNF nights in hospital (patients often can't distinguish)? Do you want to clarify whether the physician visits include infusions, allergy shots, dialysis, or diagnostic tests?

**Characteristics**

Tested on 1128 to 1130 subjects with chronic disease. N=51 for test-retest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Name</th>
<th>No. of Subjects</th>
<th>Observed Range</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>Internal Consistency Reliability</th>
<th>Test-Retest Reliability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physician visits</td>
<td>1,128</td>
<td>0-54</td>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>5.23</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency dept visits</td>
<td>1,128</td>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>.40</td>
<td>.93</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Times hospitalized</td>
<td>1,128</td>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>.23</td>
<td>.76</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nights hospitalized</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>0-116</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>5.53</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source of Psychometric Data

Comments
There is no perfect way to get self-reported utilization data - do not try for a time period of more than six months. The article below discusses the validity of these questions. These items available in Spanish.

References


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