

## **O32 Assessing comprehensibility of Dutch patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) for people with low literacy skills**

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**Objective:** Approximately 2.5 million Dutch adults have low literacy, which may hinder their completion of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs). As a result, they do not benefit from the clinical use of PROMs and are underrepresented in clinical trials and PROM research, further exacerbating health inequalities. While PROMIS® items banks have been translated to Dutch and are applied in Dutch healthcare, it is unknown if they are suitable for those with lower literacy. This study aims to assess the comprehensibility of selected PROMIS measures for Dutch individuals with low literacy.

**Methods:** Eight PROMIS item banks from a standard PROM set recommended by the Dutch Ministry of Health were assessed: Ability to Participate, Anxiety, Cognitive Function, Depression, Fatigue, Pain Interference, Physical Function, and Sleep Disturbance, totaling 452 items. Item comprehensibility was assessed with the Dutch readability metric *Klinkende Taal* and by low literacy experts (n=25) in an online survey. Based on these assessments, the research team held a consensus meeting to select items for cognitive interviews with adults with low literacy (n≈40). Each item will be assessed at least four times, guiding further literacy-proof optimization of the item banks.

**Results:** In the consensus meeting (n=10), item inclusion criteria were defined. Items were included for the interviews if ≥60% of experts (including *Klinkende Taal*) considered them comprehensible, and excluded if ≥80% considered them incomprehensible. Remaining items with mixed assessments were reviewed by the research team, resulting in 221 items selected for ongoing cognitive interviews: Sleep Disturbance 21/27 (77.8%), Anxiety 22/29 (75.9%), Physical Function 107/165 (64.8%), Depression 18/28 (64.3%), Cognitive Function 13/32 (40.6%), Fatigue 25/95 (26.3%), Ability to Participate 8/35 (22.9%), and Pain Interference 7/41 (17.1%). Final results will be presented at the PHO conference.

**Conclusions:** In this study, 221 potentially comprehensible items were selected from an initial pool of 452 PROMIS items for evaluation by individuals with low literacy. Next, measurement properties will be evaluated in a large sample of people with low literacy (n=200) to ensure score comparability with existing PROMIS measures and other populations. The adapted measures will support accurate PROM completion and ultimately contribute to reduced health inequities.