Evaluating patient-based outcome measures for use in clinical trials: a review
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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
1. To describe the diversity and reasons for diversity of available patient-based outcome measures
2. To make clear the criteria investigators should have in mind when they select patient-based outcome measures for inclusion in a clinical trial.

Authors' conclusions
Investigators need to make their choice of patient-based outcome measures for trials in terms of the criteria identified in this review.

Developers of instruments need to make available evidence under the same headings.

By means of the above criteria, further primary research and consensus-type processes should be used to evaluate leading instruments in the different fields and specialties of health care to improve use of patient-based outcome measures in trials. Primary research is needed either in the form of methodological additions to substantive clinical trials (for example comparing the performance of two or more measures) or studies of leading measures with methodology as the primary rationale.

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