

Quality Connection



December 2010 Issue

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Join the Conversation at the New QualityMetric.com

This past year was one of change, growth, and opportunity for QualityMetric. But before 2010 ends, we wanted to make just one more change - a much-needed face lift to our website. Our goals were simple - to make our website more user-friendly and also modernize it with some of the latest and greatest website features.

The most notable change is the redesign of our home page. It now displays more information than before, with distinct sections designed to ensure users find what they are looking for quickly and with little effort. To help with this, we've even included extra navigation via an additional sitemap just below the main items on the home page.

We've also added both a [discussion forum](#) and [blog](#). Our discussion forum will serve as a central locale for ideas concerning patient-reported outcomes (PROs) and their uses, while our blog will focus on the latest news in the world of PROs. The blog will be authored by our President and COO, as well as several senior scientists.

The health care field is one of innovation, so we hope all of these changes (including the website now being optimized for use with mobile devices) will open dialogue about the limitless potential of PROs in health care.

[Check out](#) our changes!

An Outcomes Special Report

A special report on outcomes measurement, called *Focusing on Case Management Outcomes Across the Care Continuum*, will soon be made available by the publishers of *Case In Point* magazine. QualityMetric's Vice President of Operations and Senior Scientist, Martha Bayliss, MSc, penned a chapter for the report. Centered on the importance of the patient's voice in health care, Martha's chapter details the various roles that patient-reported outcomes (PROs) can play in the health care process, including their ability to remove guesswork and enhance understanding about how patients are progressing. [Learn](#) more.

QualityMetric News

- Aaron Yaras, PhD and Michelle White, PhD, QualityMetric scientists, recently published an [article](#) titled, *Measuring the Health Status Burden in Hemodialysis Patients Using the SF-36® Health Survey*.
- The October 2010 issue of *Quality of Life Research*, the official journal of the International Society of Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL), contains some interesting articles related to outcomes measurement. Of particular note, one regards the use of QualityMetric's SF-36® Health Survey Mental Component Summary (MCS) score, while another involves the recall periods of health surveys.

- *Using the Short Form-36 Mental Summary Score as an Indicator of Depressive Symptoms in Patients with Coronary Heart Disease*

This article concerns the use of the SF-36 MCS score as a depression screener for a particular condition. [Read](#) the abstract.

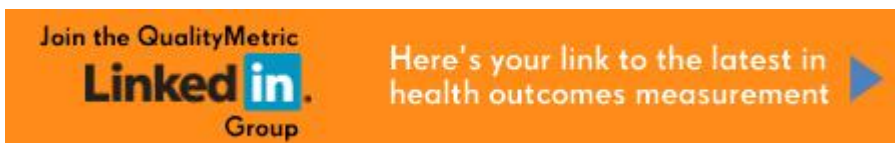
- *Interference with Activities Due to Pain and Fatigue: Accuracy of Ratings Across Different Reporting Periods*

This article addresses the issue of recall periods used in health surveys. There is some concern about whether patients can accurately recall their health status over a long period of time, such as 28 days. As shown in this study, there was high agreement between patients' daily reporting of their health status and their recall of health status over the previous 28 days. Such research is important in supporting the use of recall periods in widely used measures of health status such as QualityMetric's SF-36v2 Health Survey. [Read](#) the abstract.

Ingenix News

Here is the latest news from Ingenix's many corners of the world:

Ingenix was recently recognized by The Wall Street Journal's Technology Innovation Awards for their Disease Precursor Identification software. [Read](#) the press release.



Product Spotlight

QualityMetric's Dynamic Health Assessments (DYNHA®) utilize computerized adaptive testing (CAT) technology. The DYNHA system

contains large pools of questions from public and health survey databases, and through CAT technology, only poses those required to calculate a precise score based on an individual's responses to previous questions. These surveys are Internet-based and can be completed quickly, yet yield a wealth of data about an individual's functional health and well-being. [Learn more](#).

Connect with your
friends at QualityMetric



Publications

QualityMetric publishes a user guide to accompany each PRO health survey that we develop. Here are just a few of the publications currently available:

- User's Manual for the SF-36v2 Health Survey, Second Edition
- SF-12v2: How to Score Version 2 of the SF-12 Health Survey
- SF-36v2 Health Survey: Administration Guide for Clinical Trial Investigators
- SF-36v2 Health Survey: A Primer for Healthcare Providers
- The Pain Impact Questionnaire (PIQ-6): A User's Guide

We also have Quick Start Guides available, designed to give you the basic information necessary to become familiar with our tools. Here are some examples:

- Quick Start Guide for the SF-12v2 Health Survey
- Quick Start Guide for the Smart Measurement System
- Quick Start Guide for the Use of the SF-36v2 Health Survey with PIQ-6

[Contact](#) an Account Executive to place an order or learn more.

Events

QualityMetric has had a very busy year of conferences. In 2010, we more than doubled the number of conferences we participated in. Here's a recap by the numbers:

- Attended - 15
- Exhibited - 9
- Posters - 12 (presented at 5 conferences)

We also sponsored one conference and collaborated with Palladian at a conference to provide a comprehensive presentation on the topic of *Delivering on the Promise of Health Care Reform: Engaging Patients and*

Providers to Improve Care and Control Costs.

Our 2011 conference calendar is in the works, so stay tuned for updates!

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