

Pretesting an e-based version of the Oxford Participation & Activities Questionnaire (Ox-PAQ)

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Objectives: The Oxford Participation & Activities Questionnaire (Ox-PAQ) is a new patient-reported outcome measure, theoretically grounded in the World Health Organisation International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. The measure is specifically designed for the assessment of participation and activity in patients experiencing a range of health conditions. Initial validation of the Ox-PAQ was based on a paper-based postal survey. The objective of this study was to pretest an e-based version of the measure for use on a range of electronic devices.

Methods: Cognitive interviews with people with multiple sclerosis (MS) and Parkinson's disease (PD) were conducted to assess the usability and acceptability of the e-based Ox-PAQ. Participants completed the measure in the presence of a researcher who noted any potential difficulties which were discussed both during and after the interview. Participants were recruited via the MS Society and Parkinson's UK.

Results: Six participants, four with MS and two with PD, completed the e-based Ox-PAQ. Two completed the measure on a personal computer, two on an i-pad and two on a laptop. During the interview process two adjustments were made. Firstly, the progress bar that allows respondents to track their survey progress was moved to a more prominent position on the screen. Secondly, font colours were adjusted from red to green to indicate acceptance of information and consent statements. Participant comments were largely positive regarding presentation, ease of completion and time taken to complete the measure.

Conclusion: The e-based Ox-PAQ appears both usable and acceptable to participants on a range of electronic devices. It is currently being incorporated in a large-scale online survey to assess the responsiveness of the measure.

Word Count: 270 (300 max)