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Establishing a Welsh language version of the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS)

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Introduction

Despite the growing need for language and cultural awareness in health research, there is a paucity of measures available in Welsh to enhance the reliability and validity of instruments as outcome measures for trials and research studies conducted in the bilingual context of Wales. LLAlS is embedded in the NWORTH Trials Unit and funded by Health and Care Research Wales to identify, prioritize and develop Welsh translations and linguistic validations of health measures for the research infrastructure across Wales; and explore ways of establishing the psychometric validation data to examine their response amongst different populations.

Aims and objectives of WEMWBS validation

To prioritize and establish a Welsh language version of the WEMWBS wellbeing measure through:
- Undertaking the translation and linguistic validation of a Welsh version of the WEMWBS measure to benefit the clinical as well as research context
- Making the Welsh version of the WEMWBS measure available on the interactive web resource, MI-CYM http://micym.org/llais/static/index.html, to aid accessibility for clinicians and researchers.

Methods

A lengthy step-by-step process with quality control steps and cognitive testing was undertaken to ensure that both conceptual and semantic equivalence are achieved. The steps were as follows. (See http://micym.org/llais/static/translations.html)

Findings

As well as professional translators, a language terminologist, and healthcare professionals, twelve young people from North Wales gave their opinion on a version of the Welsh language WEMWBS in focus group sessions or in face to face interviews to ensure clarity of the questions. Changes were made to the wording based on these discussions and final comments from the language terminologist. Example changes:

- ‘I’ve been feeling relaxed’ – ‘Rafweld bod yn tenntio fel fy mod wedi weld ymaethiso’
- ‘I’ve been feeling good about myself’ – ‘Rafweld bod yn tenntio’n dda amndodfy hun’
- ‘I’ve been feeling loved’ – ‘Rafweld bod yn tenntio’n dda cafell ac afairy rhagfwr’

The Welsh version of the WEMWBS can be found on the WEMWBS website: https://www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/research/platform/wemwbs/

Conclusion

Since October 2018, the WEMWBS has been available for practitioners and researchers to use in Wales. This wellbeing tool will be of benefit in facilitating young people to express their wellbeing in Welsh. The LLAlS linguistic validation work makes significant contribution towards establishing robust systems to ensure conduct and delivery of clinical trials of the highest quality that meet regulatory and governance requirements whilst advancing methodological approaches of international significance. To date, 44 outcome measures are listed on the micym.org website and around 40 of these have been linguistically validated by LLAlS, NWORTH Trials Unit.

References


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