The Assessment of Older People with dementia and depression of CALD Backgrounds: A review of current practice and the development of guidelines for Victorian ACAS (undertaken by NARI, 2011). Funds for this project were provided by the Council of Australian governments (COAG) as part of the COAG initiative to strengthen and improve the Aged Care Assessment Program (ACAP). The ACAP is an initiative of the Australian Government and is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Government of Victoria.

Tip Sheet 5 – The IQCODE (Short Form)

What is the IQCODE: Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE) is a tool used to assess cognitive impairment in older people.

The tool requires an informant to rate cognitive change over time on a 5 point likert scale.

The IQCODE was developed by Jorm and Jacomb in 1989 and consisted of 26 questions; in 1994 a 16 item short version of the IQCODE was developed by Professor Anthony Jorm.

Information in this tip sheet will focus on the short version on this tool as it is quicker to administer, and therefore more practical to use during an ACAS assessment; it has also been recommended by the 2010 Expert Clinical Reference Group (ECRG) (Sansoni et al., 2010) at a national level.

The IQCODE should be used to supplement the other patient administered tools (e.g. the SMMSE; to increase sensitivity and specificity (Flicker et al, 1997; Flicker, 2010), or used in situations where the patient is unable to complete the assessment.

Benefits of the IQCODE: The IQCODE takes approximately 10-15 minutes to administer and is filled out by an informant. It can be used for people with lower levels of education and for those who are illiterate.

Cut-off score: The cut-off scores are based on the total score divided by the number of questions (average item score range 1-5). Higher scores indicate greater impairment. A score below 3.00 indicates improvement, 3.00 indicates no change, 3.01 – 3.50 indicates slight decline; 3.51- 4.00 indicates moderate decline; and 4.01 – 5.00 indicate severe decline.

Translated Tools

Translated versions of the IQCODE (both short and long forms) can be found at the website listed below (please note that the tools on this site may not have been validated):

http://ageing.anu.edu.au/iqcode/

In addition to these tools the following versions of the tool are also available:


Further Resources and References

The web page listed below provides copies of the tool in short and long form in various languages (including English) and information on how to score the tool:

http://ageing.anu.edu.au/iqcode/
References


IQCODE in Chinese

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