Health Services Research, Part 4: Conceptual and Operational Definitions

A major flaw of most surveys utilized in health services research is failure to develop an appropriate level of specificity in defining what is to be measured. This causes healthcare organizations to use instruments that can be vague or confusing for both survey administrators - and for respondents.

The resulting data is often difficult to analyze and a significant amount of time and resources may have been wasted if the final survey results are of minimal use to the organization.

Creating Accurate Questions for Hard-to-Measure Domains

After the survey design team has crafted a clear statement of research purpose, they must create data collection questions that will allow them to gather information that accurately reflects the assessment domains or variables indicated in the research questions. However, this is deceptively difficult because few assessment domains are easily measurable.

For example, while a person's height or resting pulse rate can be measured objectively with little difficulty, variables like "healthy dietary habits" cannot be measured as easily. In addition, any given area to be assessed may have several dimensions (discussed in Part 2 of this series).

This entry focuses on how survey designers prepare to properly measure abstract and complex variables. Survey designers engage in a two-step process to render abstract concepts measurable. These processes are the elaboration of conceptual and operational definitions. Read the full article...

How do I choose!?

We recently had a lead who was struggling making a choice between PIMSY and another mental health EHR. They asked for some help in comparing the two programs: how is PIMSY better than this other system?

While we don't feel right saying that we're "better" than another behavioral health practice management software, we don't mind sharing our strengths...

Speech-to-Text for Mental + Behavioral Health Clinicians

If you missed the webinar, watch the 20 minute video demonstrating how using SayIt® + PIMSY can reduce your documentation time by up to 25% while improving the clinical narrative.

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