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The application of the international classification of functioning, disability and health (ICF) in diabetes mellitus

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The “Comprehensive ICF Core Set for Diabetes Mellitus” is an application of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and represents the typical spectrum of problems in functioning in patients with diabetes mellitus (DM). The aim of this study is to explore the content validity of the ICF Core Set for DM from the perspectives of physical therapists (PT).

Applying Qualitative expert survey using the delphi technique, Physical therapists experienced in Diabetes Mellitus treatment were asked about the patients’ problems, patients’ resources and aspects of environment that PTs take care of. The survey was conducted in three rounds. Responses were linked to the ICF by two persons. The degree of agreement was calculated using Kappa statistic.

Twenty-two PTs, from 11 countries, answered 1st round, 23 PTs completed the second and third Delphi rounds. PTs reached consensus on 49 ICF categories. 36/49 (73%) ICF categories are represented in the ICF Core Set for DM, while 13/49 (27%) categories are not represented in the ICF Core Set for DM concepts were linked to the ICF component of Personal Factors, which is not yet classified into detailed categories. The validity of the ICF Core Set for DM from the perspective of PTs was supported. The ICF appears to provide an effective framework for PTs in the field of DM.

Biography

Hamzeh Awad has completed his PhD at the age of 30 years from University of Munich, Germany and worked in disability, rehabilitation, diabetes and eHealth in different countries such as Germany and UK. Further he has been appointed as Assistant Prof at King Saud University, and Research Manager at Prince Sultan Rehabilitation City, KSA. He is now Associate Prof in Health Science at Al Khawarizmi International College (KIC), UAE. He has several publications in ISI journals and Keynote speaker in several international conferences. He has several international collaborations with different research groups. Also, he has been involved in diabetes research for 10 years and leading Physical therapy work in Diabetes in Middle East.

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