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# Measuring empowerment among people living with HIV: a systematic review of available measures and their properties

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## Background

- Patient empowerment is increasingly recognised as an important outcome of healthcare interventions and policy [1]
- Empowered patients are believed to make more rational decisions about their health, be more adherent and less dependent on healthcare services [2]
- The aim of this study was to identify and appraise measures of empowerment used in peer-reviewed research with people living with HIV (PLWH)

#### Method

- Papers identified through searching
  - online databases
  - reference lists
  - citation search of the primary validation paper of each empowerment measure
- Databases (Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, Cochrane, CINAHL, Web of Science)
- Search terms (HIV OR human immunodeficiency virus OR antiretroviral) AND empower\* OR patient activation OR enablement OR perceived control OR capability OR independence OR (self-efficacy and mange\*) AND (measure\* OR invento\* OR scale\* OR questionnaire\* OR self-report\* OR assessment\* OR survey)

#### **Inclusion criteria**

- Study measured patient empowerment or an overlapping construct (e.g. patient activation, self-management self-efficacy)
- Sample consisted of >50% PLWH

#### **Exclusion criteria**

- Study focused on children
- Unpublished thesis
- Empowerment assessed in relation to a single behavior (e.g. adherence)
- Two researchers independently extracted data from identified papers and the primary validation paper for each empowerment measure
- Psychometric quality criteria [3] were applied to the primary validation papers

### Results

# Selection of articles and empowerment measures 2873 records identified 1462 records screened 98 full text assessed for eligibility

30 articles included

12 empowerment scales

**Empowerment constructs assessed** 

All but one measure [4] included items on selfefficacy. Multiple aspects of self-efficacy were assessed including perceived capacity to:

- Manage treatment
- Manage symptoms
- Communicate effectively with health professionals
- Obtain information
- Access support
- Manage emotional wellbeing.

Three measures [4-6] were more comprehensive and assessed several components of empowerment:

- Perceived knowledge/information seeking [4-6]
- Self-management behaviours [4-6]
- Belief in an active role for patients ([4-6]
- Tolerance of uncertainty [4]

# Psychometric quality of measures (Terwee criteria) [3]

		Number of items	Content validity	Internal consistenc	Criterion validity	Construct validity	Agreement	Reliability	Responsiveness	Floor/ceiling effect	Interpretability
	Chronic Disease Self-Efficacy Scales	33	+	?	0	+	?	0	0	+	0
	Health Care Empowerment Inventory (HCEI)	8	-	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	?
	HIV Symptom Management Self- Efficacy Scale	34	-	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	0
	HIV Self Efficacy Questionnaire	9	+	-	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
	HIV Symptoms Management Self- Efficacy for Women Scale	10	-	?	0	-	0	0	?	0	0
	Patient Activation Measure (13-items) (PAM-13)	13	+	?	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
	Patient Activation Measure (22-items) (PAM-22)	22	+	+	+	+	?	0	0	0	0
	Perceived HIV Self-Management Scale	8	0	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	0
	Self-Efficacy Inventory	8	0	?	0	?	0	0	?	0	0
	Self-Efficacy to Manage Chronic Disease Scale	6	+	+	0	+	0	0	?	+	0
	Strategies Used by Patients to Promote Health	29	+	+	0	+	?	?	0	0	0
	Treatment Self-Efficacy	20	0	?	0	?	0	0	0	?	Ş

Rating: + clear description/met design/evidence criteria; ? indeterminate (doubtful design/method or lack of clear description); - lack of evidence; 0 no information

### Conclusions



- Empowerment questionnaires captured a variety of different constructs
- The majority of questionnaires focused on self-efficacy which is only one component of empowerment [2]
- Three questionnaires were broader in scope, each addressing three additional constructs [4-6]
- Most scales had acceptable construct validity but further into reliability and responsiveness is needed
- The choice of measure is likely to be influenced by the purpose of the assessment and empowerment domains relevant to the research questions

#### References

1 Bravo et al. (2015) Conceptualising patient empowerment: A mixed methods study. BMC Health Serv Res, 15, 252. 2 McAllister et al. (2012) Patient empowerment: The need to consider it as a measureable patient-reported outcome for chronic conditions. BMC Health Serv Res, 12, 157.

3 Terwee et al. (2007) Quality criteria were proposed for measurement properties of health status questionnaires. J Clin Epidemiol. 60 (1), 34-42.

4. Johnson, M. O., Rose, C. D., Dilworth, S. E., & Neilands, T. B. (2012). Advances in the conceptualization and measurement of health care empowerment: Development and validation of the health care empowerment inventory. PLoS One, 7(9). 5. Hibbard, J. H., Stockard, J., Mahoney, E. R., & Tusler, M. (2004). Development of the patient activation measure (pam): Conceptualizing and measuring activation in patients and consumers. Health Serv Res, 39(4 Pt 1), 1005-1026. 6. Hibbard, J. H., Mahoney, E. R., Stockard, J., & Tusler, M. (2005). Development and testing of a short form of the patient activation measure. Health Serv Res, 40(6 Pt 1), 1918-1930