

Quality Indicators for Palliative Care: update of a systematic review

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Introduction

- ❖ In 2007, systematic review by Pasman et al. (J Pain Symptom Manage, 2009) concluded:
 - ❖ Limited number of Quality Indicators (QI) developed for palliative care (PC)
 - ❖ Mostly referring to process and outcome of care
 - ❖ Psychosocial and spiritual domains less covered
 - ❖ Majority of publications lacked description of feasibility and validity of the indicators
- ❖ Boosting attention in the last years, therefore we decided to update the 2007 review

Methods

- ❖ Literature search up to October 2011 in Medline, Embase, CINAHL and PsycINFO
- ❖ Selection of publications describing development process or characteristics of QI for PC
- ❖ Either numerators and denominators or norms had to be derivable from the descriptions

Results

Figure 1. Number of QIs per domain

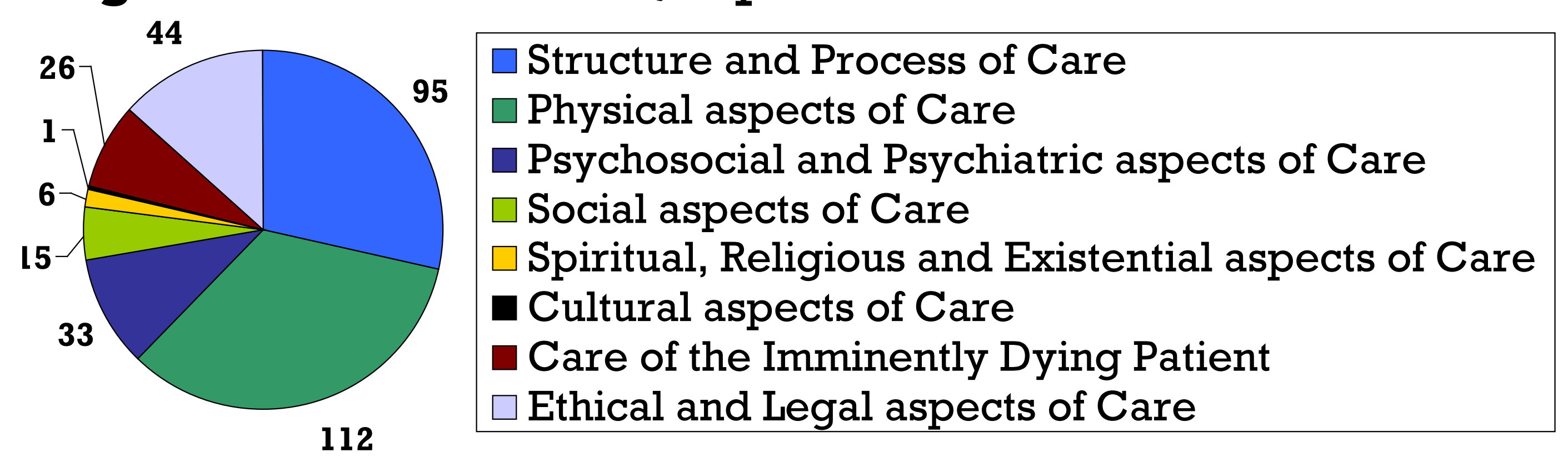


Figure 2. Type of indicator

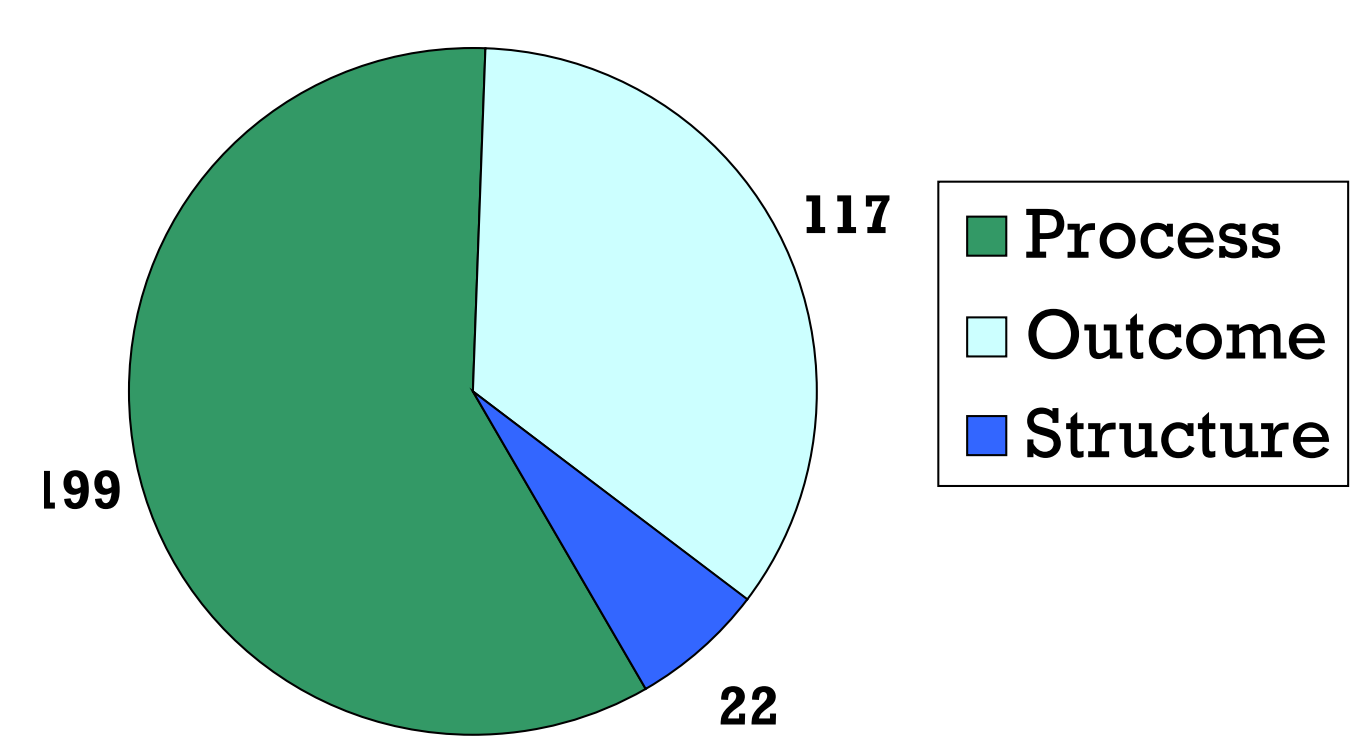


Table 1. Overview of sets found:

CARE SETTING	N° OF QI SETS (N=17)
Cancer care	5
Vulnerable elderly	2
Hospice care	2
ICU	1
Nursing home	1
Home care	1
PC in hospital setting	1
Several settings	4

- ❖ 17 sets of QIs: 8 sets from 2007 review + 9 new sets = 326 unique QIs
- ❖ Lot of attention for physical domains, less attention for social, spiritual and cultural domains
- ❖ Most indicators are process indicators, more than outcome or structure indicators
- ❖ Quality of the developmental process varies

Conclusion

- ❖ New developments in QIs are mainly quantitative: rising number of new QIs
- ❖ Large variation in the quality of the developmental process: only a couple of sets have a detailed description of the developmental process and few sets have been tested in practice
- ❖ **More transparent and detailed methodological description is needed for further development of existing QIs and to enable transfer of QIs between countries**

Reference

De Roo ML, Leemans K, Claessen SJJ, Cohen J, Pasman HR, Deliens L, Francke AL. Quality indicators for palliative care: update of a systematic review. J Pain Symptom Manage 2013;46(4):556-572.

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