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ASCOT-ER for Older People

WHAT IS THE 'ASCOT-ER (OP)'?

The ASCOT-ER for Older People is an Easy Read adaptation of the Adult Social Care Outcomes Toolkit, known as ASCOT.

ASCOT is designed to capture the aspects of quality of life most impacted by social care. This new 'accessible' version is designed to support the inclusion of people who find completing surveys difficult, due to dementia, mild cognitive impairment, being unfamiliar with surveys or other issues.

We hope it will help more people share their own experiences and views.

HOW DID THIS RESEARCH STUDY COME ABOUT?

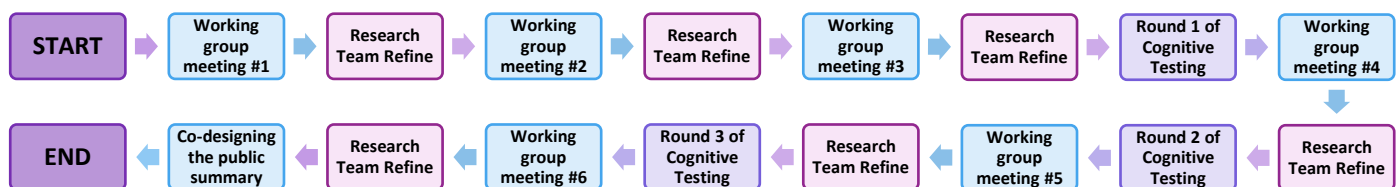
Over half a million older people in the UK are supported by publicly-funded social care services. These services help with day-to-day living in people's own homes, in care/nursing homes and other settings.

The Adult Social Care Outcomes Toolkit (ASCOT) has been widely used to measure the impact of social care on the quality of life of people supported. However, some older people find the questionnaire difficult to complete.

This study wished to enable more older people to complete the questionnaire themselves, so that they can tell care providers, policy makers and researchers how they feel about social care services they receive.

HOW WAS THIS NEW EASY-READ VERSION DEVELOPED?

A group of older people, primarily those living with dementia and their supporters/carers, came together as a 'working group' to adapt an existing version of the ASCOT toolkit. The new version was then tested with older people who find questionnaires difficult to complete. We had several meetings to refine the tool.



WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE NEW VERSION?

The final version of the adapted toolkit is substantially different from the standard version and the easy-read version designed for people with learning disabilities. All adaptations were made on the basis of working group suggestions and findings from testing with people who can find surveys difficult.

Our new tool is much improved for older people accessing social care services, and who may find completing surveys difficult, due to either dementia, mild cognitive impairment, being unfamiliar with surveys or any other issues. The tool is more relevant, more understandable and easier to respond to than ever before for this group of people.

USING THE TOOL

ASCOT is an internationally used outcome measure for social care. This co-designed easy-read toolkit will enable more people to report the impact of services on their quality of life. Care providers and commissioners can use the tool to assess how well services are meeting people's needs.

Contact the ASCOT team (ASCOT@kent.ac.uk) to find out more about how you can use it as part of continuous quality improvement, evaluation or care planning.

To learn more, visit our website:

<https://www.pssru.ac.uk/ascot/> or watch a video introducing the new version:

<https://tinyurl.com/ASCOT-team-reflections>