

GREEK TRANSLATION AND ADAPTATION OF THE “EVALUATION OF THE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE” QUESTIONNAIRE.

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Introduction

E-health is a crucial component of the designing and development of healthcare services systems. It has a broad definition that includes all tools and services based on information and communications technology (ICT) used in healthcare.

WHO defines e-health as “eHealth is the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for health”. One of the basic tools of e-health is the electronic health record, (EHR) which is compiled of all the **information relative to the demographics and health status of citizens.**

EHR adoption focuses not only on the **first time recording**, but also on the **continuous monitoring** and updating of the citizen’s health status in a **secure EHR database** and can function as a pivotal tool in the design of healthcare services improvement.

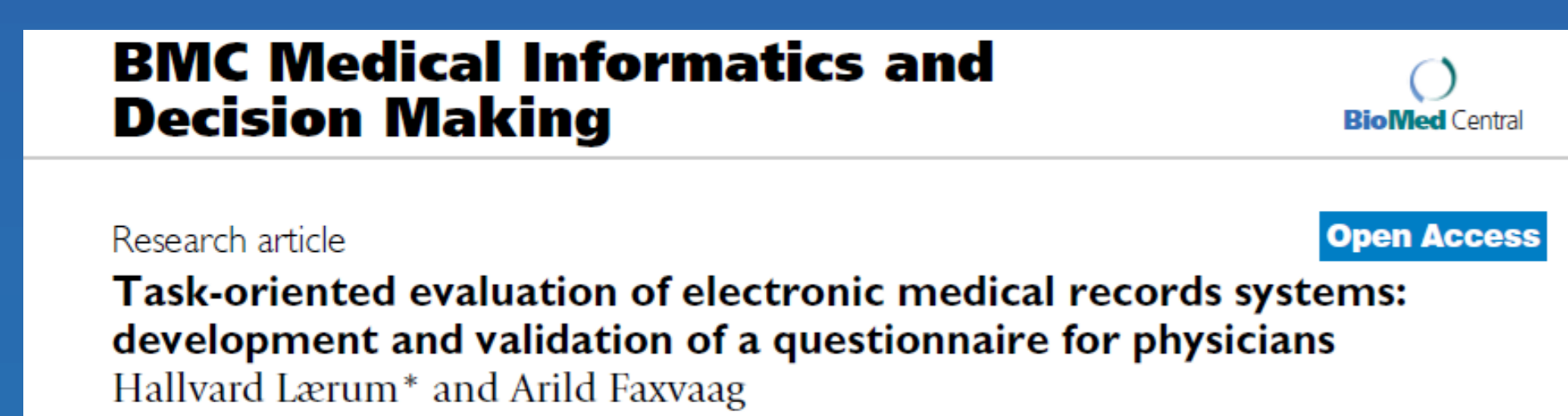
Aim of the Study

The aim of this study is to present the procedure of the **Greek translation and adaptation** of an English questionnaire that has been used for EHR evaluation.

This was part of a Master’s Of Science Thesis for the Open Greek University that aims to evaluate the EHR that is currently being introduced in the National Healthcare System (NHS) in Greece.

Method

The questionnaire we chose is the one used in the “Evaluation of Electronic Medical Records” study, by Hallvard Lærum and Arild Faxvaag (BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making, 2004), and the procedure was carried out in three stages.



The image shows a screenshot of the questionnaire form. It is titled "Evaluation of electronic medical records - Questionnaire 1". The form includes instructions and several sections: A. About your position, B1. About your use of electronic medical records for clinical tasks in the hospital. Section A1 has two questions with Yes/No options. Section B1 has a table with 4 rows and 5 columns for frequency of use, plus two columns for support and applicability.

First, we got the **authors’ permission** to translate the questionnaire in Greek, adapt and use it for the needs of our research.

Then, **two certified bilingual, native Greek speakers** carried out **two independent translations** of the original questionnaire.

An **ad-hoc expert committee** (three general practitioners with a special interest in e-health and a Professor of the Hellenic Open University in the healthcare services management department) met to **make a synthesis** of the two translations and come up with the final questionnaire.

Both translators agreed on the final questionnaire formed by the expert Committee.

The two Greek translations had **insignificant differences** and also **minor changes needed to be made** to the original questionnaire to adapt it for the specific needs of our survey.

Finally, this final questionnaire was given to 175 Greek General Practitioners who have a role as Family Doctors and access to the Greek National Healthcare System EHR, in order to fill the questionnaire.

The whole adaptation procedure was come to conclusion with the calculation of the questionnaire’s internal consistency (Cronbach’s a).

The index range is between 0 and 1.

According to guidelines the lower limit of this index must be at least over 0,7 in order the questionnaire to be reliable.

Results

The reliability of this questionnaire was very high (**Cronbach’s a index >0,8**) in all fields as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Cronbach’s a index for the fields of the questionnaire

Field	Elements	alpha
Frequency and Usability	Referral and results	0,972
	Seek information	0,962
	Proceedings	0,801
Facilitation in Use	Seek information	0,959
	Referral and results	0,953
	Proceedings	0,870
Satisfaction of Usage	Content	0,937
	Accuracy	0,926
	Convenience	0,951
	Timeliness	0,930

Limitation of the Study

The Greek NHS Electronic Health Record is a new e-health tool that was introduced the past few months, and the number of Family Doctors which use this is small.

Due to this fact the conclusions that gained from the answers, must be generalized in the future, in order to produce better versions of the EHR, and promote the overall health status of the population.

According to the estimations of the health policy makers in Greece it will be needed at least two years in order to cover the whole population with a really functional EHR.

Conclusions

This questionnaire can be **broadly used** to evaluate the personal EHR, that was introduced the past few months in Greece as a basic tool for the Family Physicians to manage the health of allocated citizens.

This will provide **necessary knowledge** to address the possible adopting and implementation barriers and achieve healthcare services improvement, especially in the Primary Health Care Sector in Greece.