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The development of the Activity Card Sort - United Kingdom (ACS-UK)

—Content validity, item generation and selection—

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Introduction: The Activity Card Sort (ACS; Baum and Edwards, 2008) is a valid and reliable American self-report measure of older people's activity participation. There are eight further ACS culturally sensitive versions. Cultural sensitivity issues have been identified as a limitation to using the ACS in the United Kingdom (UK). Objective: To conduct a content validity study to identify relevant ACS-UK activity items.

Methods: A two phase mixed-method design was employed. 1) Item generation was conducted through literature review of ACS versions and UK time-use studies and expert opinion. 2) Item selection was undertaken through a two-round quantitative postal or on-line survey of community-living UK older people (age 65 years and above) and tape-recorded qualitative focus groups.

Results: Item generation resulted in 125 potential items. These were rated for level of engagement on a 5-point scale by 177 people, who also identified 20 further activities. The combined 145 items were rated by 21 people on a 5-point scale for how common they were to UK older adults. Item means and standard deviations were calculated and a cut-off level for inclusion set. Through focus groups, eight older people reviewed: items close to the cut-off; activity labels; activity domain classifications; and possible collapsing of items. Ninety-one items were selected and comprise: 27 instrumental activities of daily living; 15 high demand leisure activities; 25 low demand leisure activities; 24 social / cultural activities. Conclusion: The ACS-UK contains valid and culturally relevant items and, when compared to other ACS versions, seven items were specific to the ACS-UK. Contribution: The ACS-UK is a client-centred self-report measure that can be used in practice and research to evaluate interventions related to participation and for cross-cultural research exploring older people's activities.

Reference: Baum CM, Edwards DF (2008) Activity Card Sort: Test Manual (2nd edition). Bethesda: AOTA Press.