

POZQOL IMPLEMENTATION TRIAL - INCORPORATING A QUALITY OF LIFE SCALE FOR PLHIV INTO DAY TO DAY CLINICAL AND COMMUNITY PRACTICE

Authors: Graham Brown¹, James Dunn¹, John Rule², Tim Krulic³, Jenny Hoy⁴, Andrew Buchanan⁵, Chris Howard⁶, Neil Fraser⁷, Fraser Drummond⁸, Duncan Short⁹, Anthony Lyons¹, Jennifer Power¹

¹Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society; La Trobe University, graham.brown@latrobe.edu.au

²National Association of People with HIV Australia

³Living Positive Victoria

⁴The Alfred

⁵Bobby Goldsmith Foundation

⁶Queensland Positive People

⁷Positive Life NSW

⁸ViiV Healthcare Australia

⁹ViiV Healthcare Global

Background/Purpose: To be effective in improving the quality of life (QoL) of people with HIV (PLHIV), HIV community and healthcare services needed a valid, short and practical way to measure QoL among PLHIV who are accessing their programs. The PozQoL scale was recently developed to achieve this. In this study, we examined the practical utility of PozQoL when the scale is put into practice by health and community services.

Approach: The PozQoL implementation study assessed over 12 months:

1. the usability, acceptability, and usefulness of PozQoL in the day-to-day practice of health and community services (through online survey and interviews, n=20 staff across 7 community organisations, 3 clinics, and one online app) and identify barriers, enablers and solutions to monitoring QoL in practice; and
2. the sensitivity of the PozQoL scale to measure changes in QoL as a result of different interventions or services through collation of service evaluation data (n=95 clients).

Outcomes/Impact:

1. While service staff rated the scale highly for usability and usefulness, logistical barriers within organisations and language barriers for clients needed to be overcome. Services developed and trialled a range of solutions. PozQoL was also used as a tool for interaction and engagement with clients.
2. PozQoL was sensitive enough to identify statistically significant improvements in the QoL of PLHIV participants (including across social, psychological, functional and health concerns domains) accessing different types of services (peer workshops, retreats and individualised welfare/health services).

Innovation and Significance: The PozQoL trial showed that a QoL assessment scale can be usefully incorporated into the day to day practice and evaluation of community and clinical programs, providing important insights into the effectiveness of services beyond treatment adherence and clinical markers. The PozQoL Scale has been translated into 13 languages and incorporated into research and practice across Australia, North America and Europe.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: The PozQoL study is a joint project of ARCSHS, NAPWHA and ViiV Healthcare. The study has been supported with funds from ViiV Healthcare, and in-kind support from community and clinical services.