

How to ask questions about performance while considering facilitators and barriers: the first web version of the "Web Activity and Participation Performance Inventory" (WAPP.In).

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Abstract WAPP.In was developed to be a web questionnaire to facilitate the description of ICF performance, facilitators and barriers for any selection of ICF AP categories. It does not use ICF sentences and definitions to question someone about his or her life in the past 30 days, but its contents fit completely with ICF constructs. A field test is ongoing in a clinical setting.

Introduction

It is difficult to collect information about performance while explicitly taking into account the Environmental Factors (EF) role, for each activity considered, whatever the subset of categories considered. Moreover, it results particularly difficult to collect information about barriers. Available tools have not been developed to take into account the different kinds of environmental aspects. On the other hand, ICF as a language, which classifies Environmental Factors, may result difficult to use. Aim: to define a web questionnaire to facilitate the description of ICF performance, facilitators and barriers for any selection of ICF AP categories, without using ICF sentences and definition to question someone about his or her life in the past 30 days.

Methods & Materials

The starting point was a previous VilmaFABER selection of AP categories and the way they were analysed jointly with EF. At the current stage of development, VilmaFABER may be considered as a system for coding information on functioning that supposes a method to collect biopsychosocial information. To overcome some methodological and practical issues on how the biopsychosocial information has to be collected, WHODAS 2.0 and other tools that had dealt with the problem of performance description were analysed.

Figure 1 – Comparison between WHODAS 2.0 and WAPP.In flashcards

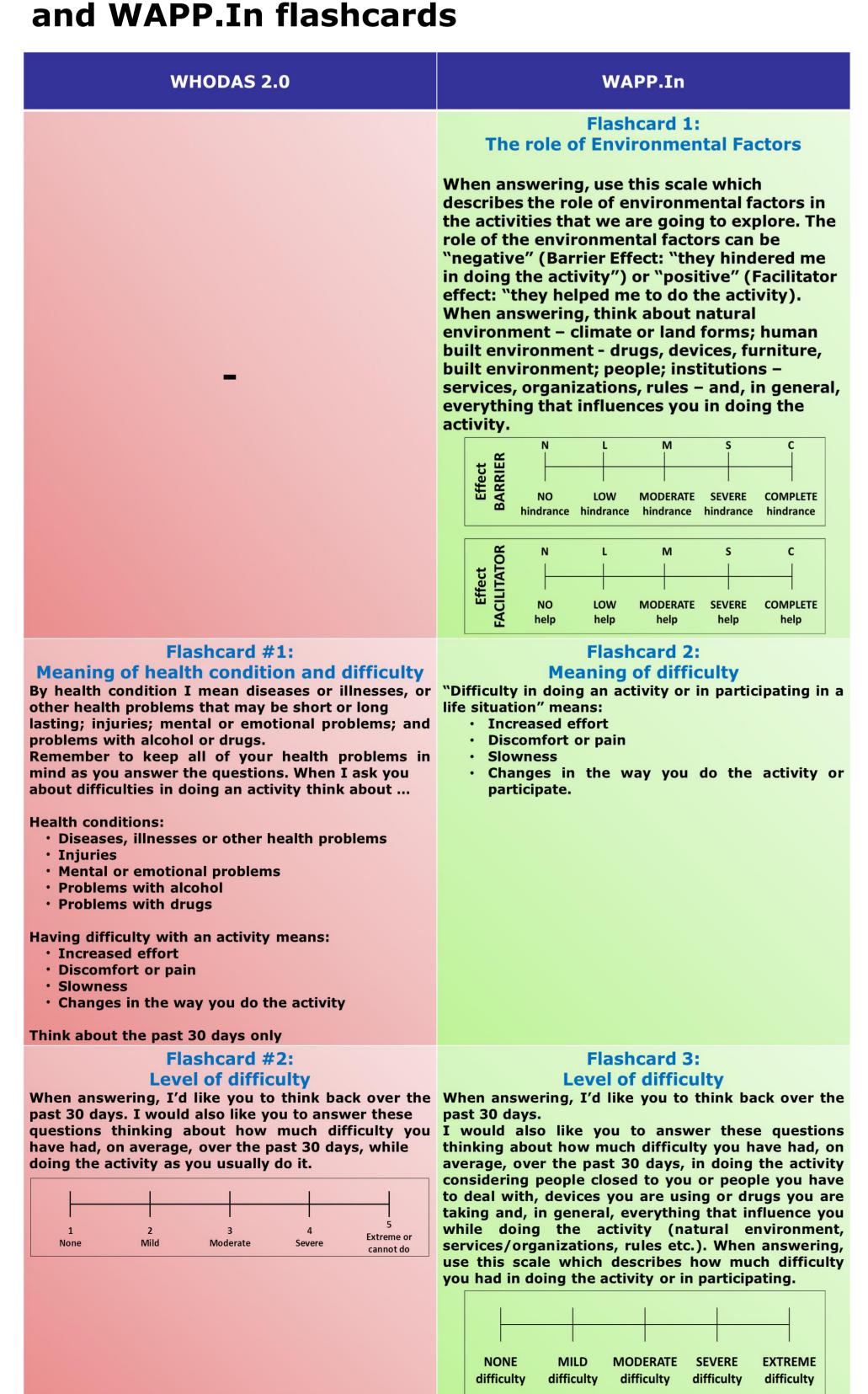
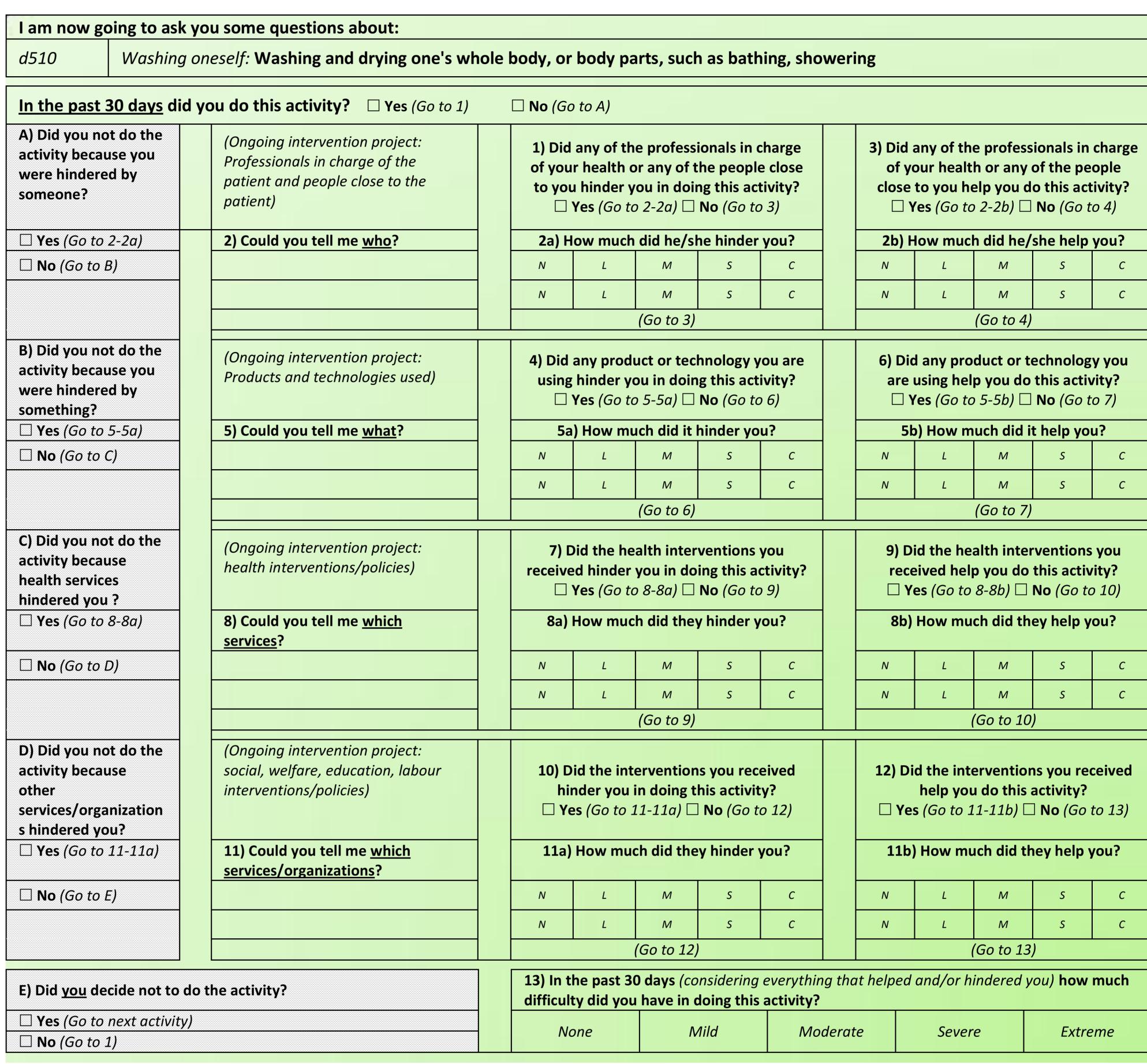


Figure 2 - How WAPP.In asks about doing activities: an example



The aim was to allow to collect information in natural language and to allow VilmaFABER to code them in ICF language.

Results

A new questionnaire was developed, temporarily named WAPP.In. It considered 63 items from the 9 Activity and Participation chapters, and explored the EF role, starting from the list of expanded ICF-EF terms which VilmaFABER releases at the end of the first step of the individual functioning assessment, available in a dropdown menu. WAPP.In collects information on facilitators, barriers and performance in natural language and uses a unique question structure. The answers were collected using a five-level Likert scale to explore the level of difficulty in doing activities and the level of facilitator and/or barrier effects. Each level of the Likert scale corresponds to an ICF qualifier value (0 to 4).

An automated ICF coding was developed and an instruction manual was written to administer WAPP.In. A special attention was given to self-determination, in order to distinguish activities which cannot be performed because of barriers from activities that are not performed because of the individual's will. A version for children

was studied.

Conclusions

It is possible to explicitly collect information on performance, facilitators and barriers using the WAPP.In. It is also possible to ask questions using natural language, stressing the necessity to collect good information on the EF role to explain difficulties in doing an activity. Coding in ICF may be a subsequent, automatic step in the process of standardization of the information collected using natural language. A first field test is ongoing to test the questionnaire in selected samples.

Figure 3 – A WHODAS 2.0 question example

Domair	3 Self-care					
l am nov	w going to ask you about difficulties in t	taking care	of yourse	<u>elf</u> .		
Show fl	ashcards #1 and #2					
In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in:		None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme or cannot do
D3.1	Washing your whole body?	1	2	3	4	5
D3.2	Getting <u>dressed</u> ?	1	2	3	4	5
D3.3	Eating?	1	2	3	4	5
D3.4	Staying by yourself for a few days?	1	2	3	4	5

References

World Health Organization. Measuring Health and Disability: Manual for WHO Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS 2.0) / edited by TB Üstün, N Kostanjsek, S Chatterji, J Rehm. Geneva, WHO, 2010.

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