Adaptation and content validation of the palliative care knowledge test (PCKT)

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The Palliative Care Knowledge Test (PCKT) was developed to assess palliative care (PC) knowledge among healthcare professionals. Although PCKT has been validated and used in many countries, it has not been validated in Malaysia. Therefore, the aim of our study was to adapt and perform content validation of PCKT in local settings. **Methods:** Permission to use and adapt PCKT was obtained from the authors. The original questionnaire had five domains with a total of 20 items. After discussion with a PC specialist, a few items were adapted to suit local practice and guidelines. Content validation by a panel of six subject matter experts (SME) consisting of PC specialists and PC healthcare workers was conducted. SMEs were requested to rate the relevance of items to the domains on a 4-point Likert scale. Content Validation Index (CVI) was calculated in two forms: item-level CVI (I-CVI) and scale-level CVI (S-CVI/Ave). **Results:** Most items in the adapted PCKT (15/20) obtained acceptable I-CVI scores of ≥0.83. Three items (questions 3,14,20) obtained I-CVI scores of 0.67; while I-CVI scores of 0.50 and 0.33 were obtained by one item each (questions 4 and 13 respectively). The S-CVI/Ave was 0.85. When all five items with I-CVI of ≤0.70 were removed, S-CVI/Ave improved to 0.94. **Conclusion:** This adapted PCKT may be used in local settings as overall content validity was acceptable. However, we recommend using the adapted version with the removal of five items (questions 3,4,13,14,20) as S-CVI/Ave after removal indicates excellent content validity.