Effective Health Care

Comparative Effectiveness of Language Interpretation Services
Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

■ The topic, *Comparative Effectiveness of Language Interpretation Services,* is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time.

Topic Description

Nominator(s): Organization

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in understanding the comparative effectiveness of Spanish language interpretation services including in-person and telephonic language interpretation services with regard to prescribed medications.

Staff-Generated PICO
Population(s): Individuals who require language interpretation services
Intervention(s): In-person language interpretation services
Comparator(s): Telephonic language interpretation services
Outcome(s): Reduction in medication errors, increase in patient satisfaction, increase in patient safety, increase in medication adherence

Key Questions from Nominator: The nominator is interested in understanding the comparative effectiveness of language interpretation services, including in-person and telephonic language interpretation services, as they pertain to prescription medication use.

Considerations

■ The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/.)

■ Providing culturally competent services, such as telephonic interpretation services, has the potential to improve patient access, health outcomes, increase the efficiency of clinical and support staff, and result in greater client satisfaction with services.

■ The published literature on the comparative effectiveness of language interpretation services is very limited. Therefore, this topic is not feasible for a full systematic review at this time.