Supportive & Palliative Care Indicators Tool (SPICT™) Enabling identification of patients at risk of deteriorating and dying worldwide

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Background

- Improving identification of people with one or more advanced conditions who are at risk of deteriorating health and dying with these conditions is essential.

- These people and their families benefit from assessment of their health care and wider needs, opportunities to talk about 'what matters' to them, earlier supportive and palliative care, and care planning.

- Populations are ageing and people are living with many more advanced illnesses. This makes better patient identification more challenging. The illness trajectory of multimorbidity is characterised by fluctuating poor health and uncertainty about when and how individual patients will die.
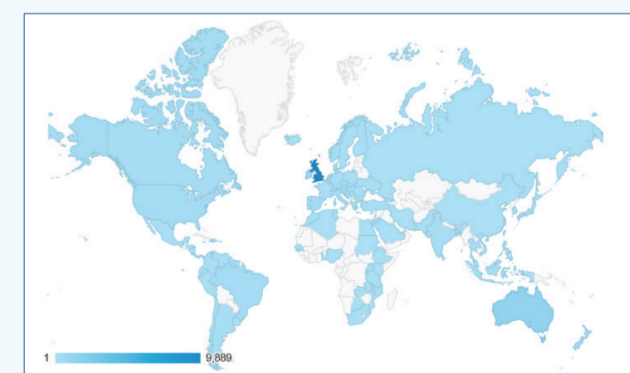
Designing SPICT™

- Consensus-based, evidence-informed guidance for professionals.

- Key general indicators of deteriorating physical/ mental health.

- Clinical indicators of major advanced conditions (93%[1]):
  - Cancer
  - Dementia/ frailty
  - Organ failure – heart, lung, kidney, liver
  - Neurological conditions

- Accessible language, content and layout (89%[1]).

- Supports identification in all settings (81%[1]).

- Prompts assessment and care planning along with optimal management of any reversible, underlying conditions (83%[1]).

- Identifies people at 'risk' of deteriorating and dying, not just those we are sure will die.

- Promotes effective future care planning for:
  - People with advanced conditions at risk of deteriorating (advance care planning).
  - People with deteriorating health at risk of dying (anticipatory care planning).
  - People in the last days of life (care plan for a dying person and their family).

[1] Ratings of key features of SPICT in the 2014 online survey of SPICT users

SPICT International

- A growing online, community of SPICT partner projects and collaborators.

- Open access, online resources to support patient identification and communication about deteriorating health.

- Opportunities to share projects, research and service developments via online forums.

- A programme of SPICT™ translations.

- NEW SPICT-APP creates individual patient profiles of SPICT indicators and supports communication between professionals, conversations with patients/ families, and care planning.

SPICT International (2013-2015) visits/ downloads

Further information

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Contact us via the SPICT website

http://www.spict.org.uk/