

# What do healthcare professionals require to discuss patients' social and spiritual needs with help of the Utrecht Symptom Diary – 4 Dimensional?

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Results



Figure 1. Healthcare professionals pre-conditions

**Background**  
The Utrecht Symptom Diary – 4 Dimensional (USD-4D) is a patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) with conformed helpfulness in day-to-day care. It supports patients, loved ones, and healthcare professionals in structurally assessing the intensity of symptoms and issues.

**Aim**  
To identify what healthcare professionals need and prefer when using the USD-4D and discussing related social and spiritual issues or needs to support implementation in routine palliative care.

**Methods**  
Sequential explanatory mixed-methods study employing surveys and focus groups.

## Participants

	No experience with USD-4D	Experience with USD-4D
<b>Number of participants</b>	65	57
<b>Female (%)</b>	64 (98.5)	52 (91.2)
<b>Mean age (SD)</b>	48.3 (13.0)	48.5 (10.4)
<b>Philosophy of life</b>		
None	3	2
Catholic	1	7
Protestant	57	44
Atheist	2	1
Other	2	2
<b>Experience in years (SD)</b>	24.4 (13.3)	26.8 (10.1)
<b>Palliative care</b>		
No	5	0
Yes	59	57

Preliminary results show healthcare professionals need to **understand** the instrument they are working with and feel **confident** and **motivated** to do so. The USD-4D supports healthcare professionals in discussing patients' social and spiritual needs when it ties in with their **competences** and is **relevant for and integrated** in daily care.

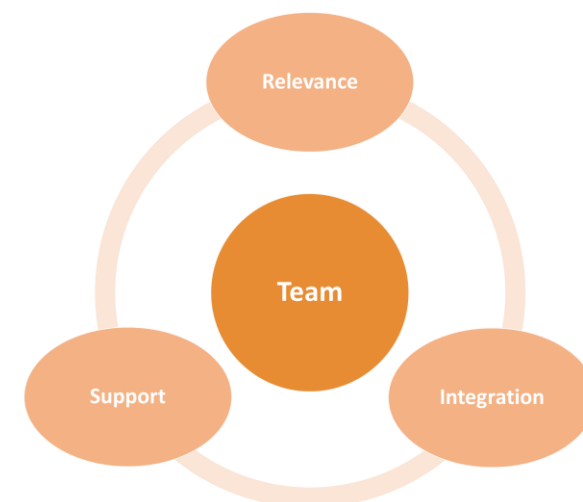


Figure 2. Team pre-conditions