

# What do patients in the palliative phase of their illness require to discuss their social and spiritual needs with help of the Utrecht Symptom Diary – 4 Dimensional?

T. Lormans, E. de Graaf, F. van der Baan, C. Leget, S. Teunissen



Results

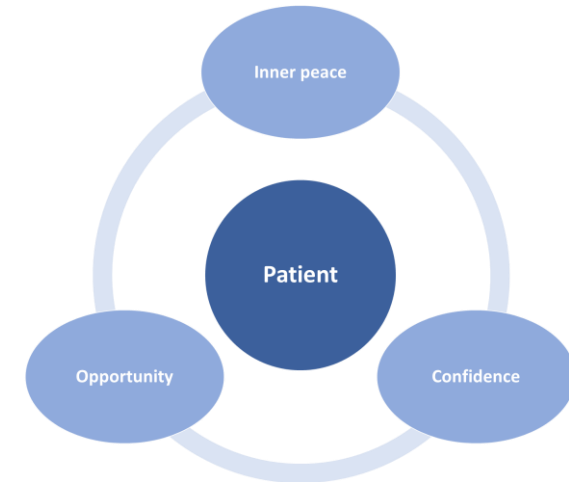


Figure 1. Patient pre-conditions

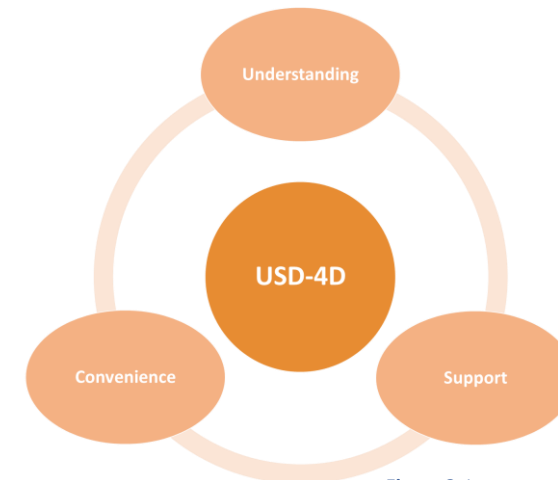


Figure 2. Instrument pre-conditions

Patients want to be **invited to discuss** potential social and spiritual issues. If they **decline** the invitation, this **does not mean they never** want discuss their issues. **Opportunity** and **inner peace** are needed. In order to use the USD-4D, **instructions** need to be clear, it should be offered at a **covenient time** and patients need to be **supported** when needed.



## Background

The Utrecht Symptom Diary – 4 Dimensional (USD-4D) is a patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) with confirmed 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 patients 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

An explorative qualitative study using in-depth semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis.

## Population

Age	Sex	Marital status*	Care setting	Admission	Level of education**	Illness	Religion or ideology	Practising religion or ideology
53	F	M	Hospice	Aug 2019	High	Cancer	Christianity	No
80	M	M	Hospice	Sept 2019	High	Cancer	None	No
75	F	W	Hospice	July 2019	High	Cancer	Christianity	No
67	F	M, Ch	Hospice	Oct 2019	High	Cancer	Christianity	Yes
79	F	W, Ch	Hospice	Nov 2019	High	Cancer	Humanism	No
78	M	M, Ch	Home	N.A.	High	Cancer	None	No
68	F	M	Home	N.A.	High	Cancer	None	No
77	M	M, Ch	Hospice	Jul 2020	High	Cancer	Christianity	No
62	M	M, Ch	Hospice	Jun 2020	High	COPD	None	No
67	M	M, Ch	Hospice	Jul 2020	High	Cancer	Christianity	No
44	M	M, Ch	Hospice	Aug 2020	High	Cancer	None	No
83	F	Alone	Hospice	Aug 2020	High	Cancer	Christianity	No
72	M	W	Hospice	Aug 2020	High	Cancer	Christianity	No

\*M: married/living together, W: widowed. \*\* Low: primary school, lower secondary general, lower vocational; middle: higher secondary general education, intermediate vocational education; high: higher vocational education, university.]