

Patient complexity assessment tools for Indigenous patient care

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Background & Gap

- **What:** Patient complexity assessment tools (PCATs) are utilized to identify and collect information vital to effectively deliver care to patients who present with ***complexity***
- **Complexity:** arises from social and contextual factors that impact health and interfere in the delivery of care itself
 - *Not co- or multi-morbidity*
 - *Interplay between various determinants, making it difficult for HCPs to address needs of patients*
- **Gap:** Indigenous patients are viewed in the clinical setting as having complex health needs, but there is no existing PCAT developed for use with the Indigenous population

Rationale & Purpose

- **Rationale:** PCATs that address complexity among Indigenous patients
 - Respond to and address the TRC's Calls to Action regarding health
 - Recognize impacts of colonization on Indigenous health
 - Identify pathways to achieve health equity for Indigenous peoples
- **Purpose:** Identify existing PCATs and determine the extent to which they are relevant to Indigenous patients who present with complexity

Methods: Search and Protocol

- **Extended Search:** Screening tools to identify patients with complex health needs at risk of high use of health care services: A scoping review. (2017)
- **Dates:** Concluded search in 2016 - present scoping review replicated search from 2016-2021 (April)
- **Databases:** CINAHL/Scopus
- **Inclusion:** English, presented a questionnaire/tool, general and adult population

Methods: Educating For Equity (E4E) Care Framework

- **Describes Indigenous-specific determinants of health**

- *Social Realities*

- Social and economic resource disparities

- capacity for self-care, food security

- Accumulation of adverse life experiences

- personal and collective loss, impacts of residential schools

- Facilitators***

- Contextualizing knowledge through cultural frameworks

- build patient's knowledge and capacity

- Culture as being therapeutic

- acknowledging and integrating traditional medicine and ceremony for Indigenous patients

Methods: Data Extraction

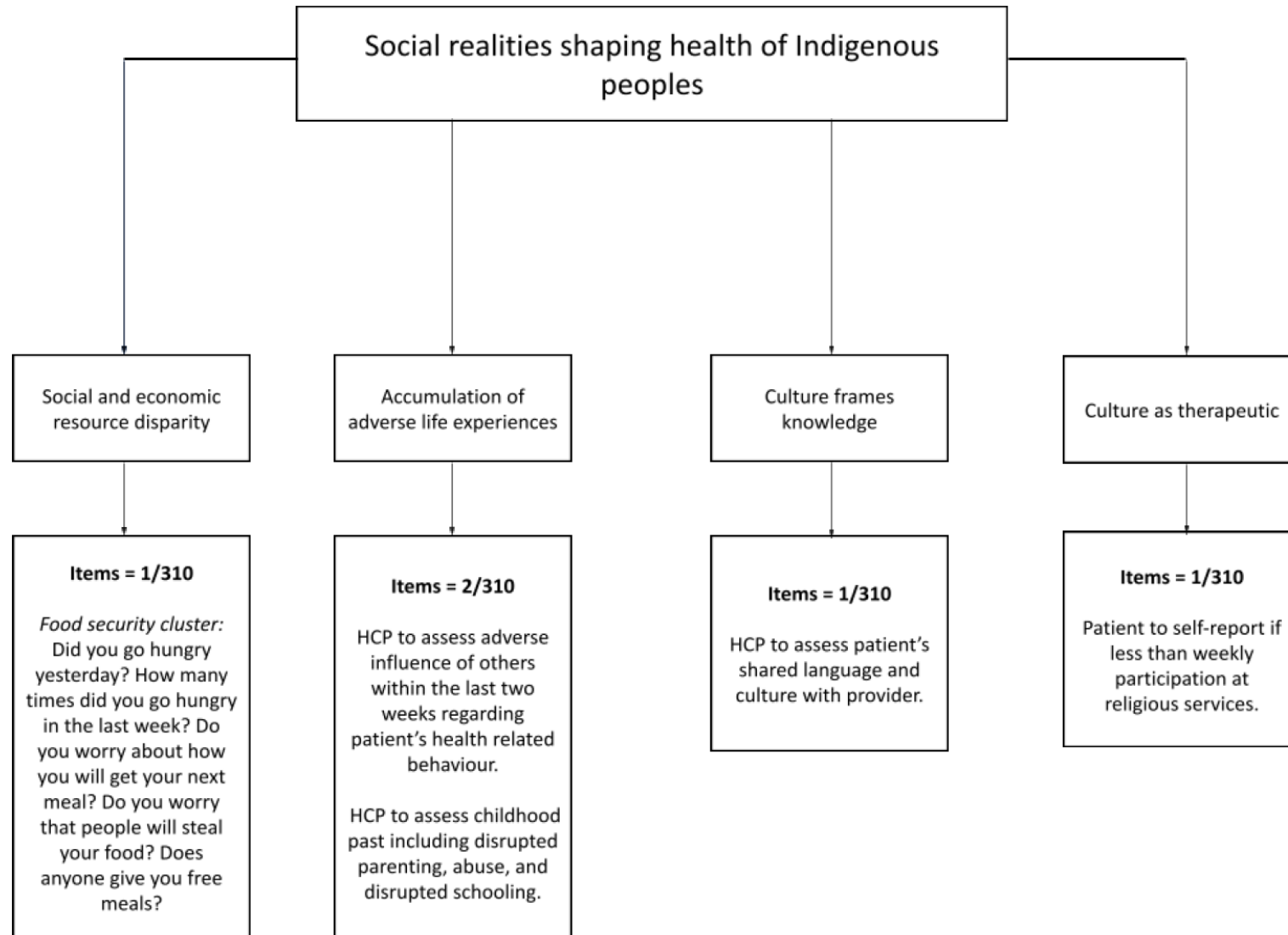
- Identified common domains assessed throughout existing PCATs
- Determined if any aspect of the “social realities” was assessed

Instrument name	Purpose	# of items	Domains assessed						
			Biological	Social	Psychological	Healthcare access	Health literacy	Functionality	Social realities

Results: Identified PCATs

- 9 new tools identified
- By combining with previously known tools, 18 in total
 - No tools that were developed for Indigenous patients
- Majority administered by the HCP, then self-administered, few completed in collaboration
 - All for adult population, 6 specified for elderly population
- From all tools, over 310 items compiled into an item pool
 - Only 5 items that *partially* assessed social realities (1.61%)

Results: Items that assessed social realities



Discussion: Contextualizing domains for Indigenous patients

- Pre-existing domains should not be discredited completely
 - Contextualized to recognize historical trauma and ongoing injustices
 - How these have largely shaped the health of Indigenous peoples

Instrument name	Purpose	# of items	Domains assessed						
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Discussion: PCAT Domains

- **Domain: Psychological**
- **Includes:** Assessment of mental health, emotional status
- **Excludes:** historical and ongoing trauma of colonization, collective and inter/multi-generational trauma and grief

Discussion: PCAT Domains

- **Domain: Healthcare Access**

- **Includes:** Assessment of ability to access healthcare services (physically or due to coverage)
- **Excludes:** Canadian system of healthcare as set up for Indigenous peoples (FNMI/different jurisdictions), access to healthcare, cost for services (what is covered?), safety in accessing services

- **Domain: Health Literacy**

- **Includes:** Assessment of individual's ability to comprehend health information, make appropriate decisions
- **Excludes:** Racism, communication barriers, stereotypes, historical legacy of healthcare system/providers, trust in HCP

Conclusions

- Paucity of appropriate tools and measures to evaluate patient complexity among Indigenous peoples
 - Few items from select tools tapped into the “social realities”
- Results will be used to ground and inform future work that aims to develop a PCAT for Indigenous patients