

QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

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which enables respondents to choose the areas of life they consider to be most important. The measure was intended to be a quality of life index specific to each person and it is good to see details of their scale included here.

Another welcome contribution is by Senga Bond on measuring the outcomes of nursing. She describes the different frameworks within nursing that can be used to categorise their outcome indicators. She discusses critically the merits of a narrow perspective of health gain which a profession based framework inevitably produces.

Jan Heyrman and Katelijne van Hoek focus on health outcome measures for older people, about which there is little consensus. They provide a useful overview of the main health problems of people aged 75 and over and list several scales commonly used with this age group to assess physical functioning,

mental state, multidimensional functioning, and life satisfaction. Most were developed to assess a single domain and researchers are left with the task of selecting a battery of measures. The authors also describe the health status outcome instrument for older people, which they are developing for use in general practice.

It is impossible to do justice to all individual contributors in a brief review, but these selected examples give an indication of the range of the book and its original, multidisciplinary approach to contributing to the body of knowledge on outcomes. It is to be recommended for researchers and health professionals with an interest in measuring health outcomes.

ANN BOWLING
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DIARY

6-8 November 1997

Zurich-Regensdorf, Switzerland: Quality Improvement in Family Practice: New Developments. The 1st Open Equip, Conference of the European Working Party in Quality in Family Practice will be hosted by: the Swiss; Kollegium für Hausarztmedizin; College de Médecine de Premier Recours; Collegio di Medicina di Base; in collaboration with WONCA Region Europe and the European Society of General Practitioners. Further information from: AKM Congress Service, Clarastrasse 57, Postfach, CH-4005 Basel, Switzerland. Tel: 41 61 691 51 11; Fax: 41 61 691 81 89; email: akm@nethos.ch

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