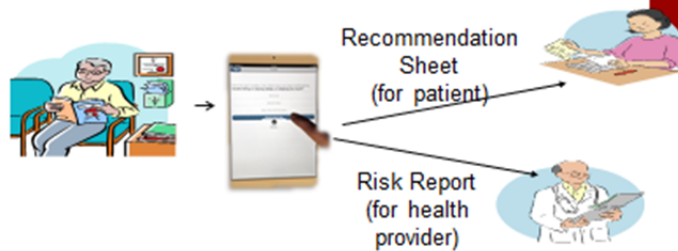


Prof. Ahmad and her team has developed and examined an Interactive Computer-Assisted Client Assessment Survey (iCCAS) for depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress and alcohol abuse in primary health care settings. The overall aim is to facilitate timely access to mental health care in primary care.

What is iCCAS?

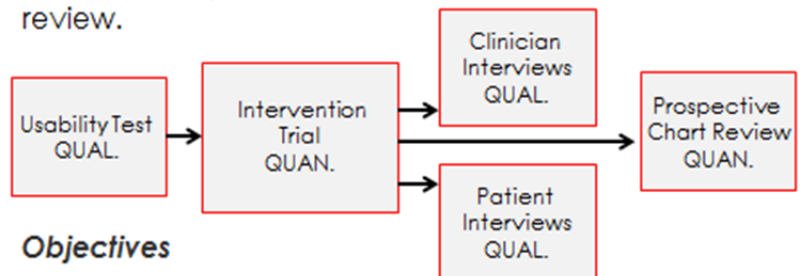


- ✓ Assess depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress & alcohol use via validated scales
- ✓ Ask about key social determinants of health
- ✓ Produce tailored reports for patients & providers in primary care
- ✓ Reach patients in multiple languages

The English and Spanish versions of the tool were recently evaluated (funds from CIHR¹) at Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services, Toronto –a primary care center that serves vulnerable populations. Four publications are forthcoming. Overall, iCCAS technology is found to be an effective tool to improve patient discussion and clinician detection of mental health concerns. Patients perceived iCCAS as beneficial and easy to use. Clinicians perceived it as a useful assessment tool to incorporate into everyday practice at community health centers.

Study design

Mix-method: Two-arm pilot randomized controlled trial (RCT) followed by qualitative clinician and patient interviews, and chart review.



Objectives

- Efficacy of iCCAS in improving patient discussion (via exit survey) and clinician detection (via chart review) of the four included CMDs, compared to usual care.
- Perspectives of clinicians and patients

The Chinese versions of the tool are under evaluation (funds from NYGH²) at Hong Fook Connecting Health NPL Clinic, Toronto.

1. Ahmad F (PI), Ledwos C (Primary Knowledge User), Dinca-Panaitescu S, Ginsburg LR, Lou W-Y W, McKenzie KJ, Ng PS, Rashid M, Shakya Y. Interactive computer-assisted screening (iCAS) for depression in primary care. Canadian Institute of Health, Catalyst eHealth Grant.
2. Ahmad F (PI) & Fung W.L. A (Co-PI). Exploring wait-room interactive technology for mental health with Chinese Canadians Exploration Funds, North York General Hospital