

Key finding

Existing measures of social engagement do not assess the range of impacts identified as important to people with Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Disorders

Measuring Social Engagement in Rheumatic & Musculoskeletal Disorders.

Aim

We aimed to evaluate existing social engagement measures.

Methods

- Qualitative systematic review of key impacts of RMDs on social engagement.
- Systematic review of the quantitative literature evaluated how existing instruments measure social engagement.
- Deliberative focus groups with key stakeholders to understand impact of RMDs on social engagement and how to measure the construct.

Results



- We compared themes from existing measures of social engagement and the qualitative literature (see Table). Additional themes from focus groups included the impact of finances, environment and burden of illness on ability to engage socially.

	Existing Measures	Qualitative Studies
Barriers		
Disease Activity		
Pain		
Fatigue		
Mood		
Body Image		
Medication Side Effects		
Unpredictability		
Difficulty		
Prioritising Work		
Isolation		
Invisibility		
Loss		
Family & Friends		
Overprotection		
Changing Roles		
Facilitators		
Social Support		
Distraction		
Enjoyment		
Learning to live with it		
Getting on with it		
Pacing		
Planning		
Virtual Interaction		

We are using these findings to create a new measure to identify people who struggle to achieve their desired levels of social participation and target support.