

Survey auditing based consistency checks to improve measurement with the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS)

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SUBMISSION DETAILS

What is the Methodological Question Being Addressed? Can survey auditing methods help identify inconsistent PANSS administrations?

Introduction Previously published work has presented expert consensus consistency checks for PANSS (Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale) administrations. Those consistency checks were based primarily on flagging incompatibilities in scoring among items within and between PANSS administrations. The field of auditing checks, as applied to survey research, provides yet another method for identifying irregularities in data.

Methods Three relevant survey auditing methods were applied that examine data irregularity, underuse of response choices, overuse of response choices and bias for even or odd responses. These were applied to see how frequently they occurred in the NewMeds repository of 122,139 PANSS administrations and to see how these relate to the previously published expert validated flags. Recursive partitioning, a statistical procedure that identifies optimal groupings, was used to find those auditing irregularities that were associated with ratings that had serious inconsistencies based on applying expert derived consistency checks.

Results PANSS administrations that did not include any items rated with a score of 2 (5.2%, n=6300), 3 (3.3%, n=4001) or 4 (16%, n=19526), administrations that repeated the same rating score on 20 or more items (8.6%, n=10532) and administrations that used odd numbers for 25 or more item ratings (8.9%, n=10840) were 1.6 to 3 times more likely to also have at least one serious inconsistency based on expert derived checks.

Conclusion Auditing based inconsistency checks appear to be a useful adjunct to expert derived checks in the quest to identify problematic PANSS administrations. Application of auditing consistency checks have the potential to improve reliability and validity of clinical trials.

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Keywords

Keywords
PANSS
consistency of measurement
flags

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DISCLOSURE

Do you have any disclosures? Nothing to disclose