

Appendices

Appendix 1. Survey

Screen 1

- What is your age?
- What is your sex?
 - Male
 - Female
- What is your current profession (licensed or in training)?
 - Rheumatologist
 - Physician assistant
 - Nurse specialist
 - Rheumatology nurse
 - Other, namely:
- How many years do you work in your current profession?
- What is your work setting (multiple answers are possible)?
 - Academic hospital
 - Teaching hospital
 - General hospital
 - Other, namely:

Screen 2

- How much do you know about shared decision making? Please score your knowledge on a scale from 0 (=no knowledge) to 10 (=comprehensive knowledge)?

Screen 3

- Shared decision making is a process in which healthcare professionals and patients work together to make decisions. How do you define shared decision making?

Screen 4

- In your opinion, are the following communicative behaviors essential for shared decision making or not? Please tick the box if you consider a communicative behavior essential for shared decision making.
 - Informing the patient about the possible pros and cons of the treatment options
 - Informing the patient how big the chances of these pros and cons are

- Informing the patient that a decision has to be made
- Allowing the patient time by making the decision in the next consultation
- Asking the patient about his/her personal values and preferences
- Letting the patient decide after giving thorough information
- Asking the patient to bring someone to the consultation
- Explaining to the patient that there is more than one treatment option
- Explaining to the patient why a certain treatment is chosen
- Making the decision together with the patient
- Explaining to the patient that his/her opinion is important in making the decision
- Letting the patient repeat the given information
- Giving information in more ways than only verbally (e.g. leaflets, websites)

Screen 5

- How do you feel about applying shared decision making in clinical practice?
 - Very positive
 - Positive
 - Neutral
 - Negative
 - Very negative
- Could you please motivate your answer to the above question?

Screen 6

- Which types of rheumatic diseases do you consider appropriate for shared decision making (multiple answers are possible)?
 - Rheumatoid arthritis
 - Psoriatic arthritis
 - Ankylosing spondylitis
 - Monoarthritis
 - Polymyalgia rheumatica
 - Scleroderma
 - Gout
 - Osteoarthritis
 - Osteoporosis

- Fibromyalgia
- Other, namely
- Which types of decisions do you consider appropriate for shared decision making (multiple answers are possible)?
 - Diagnostic testing
 - Starting and/or stopping medication
 - Adjusting medication doses
 - Administering single medication doses
 - Operation
 - Paramedical treatment (e.g. physical therapy, occupational therapy, and dietetics)
 - Making lifestyle changes (e.g. diet, physical activity, and smoking)
 - Other, namely:
- Could you please motivate your answers to the above questions?

Screen 7

- What is your usual decision making style?
 - I make decisions alone
 - I make decisions after seriously considering my patient's opinion
 - My patient and I share responsibility for making decisions
 - My patient makes decisions after seriously considering my opinion
 - My patient makes decisions alone

Screen 8

- In what percentage of the situations appropriate for shared decision making do you apply shared decision making?
 - 0%
 - 25%
 - 50%
 - 75%
 - 100%

Screen 9

- If you do not always apply shared decision making, please tick up to three reasons for not applying shared decision making.
 - Not applicable (i.e. I always apply shared decision making)
 - Shared decision making is often too complex for patients
 - Patients want me to make the decision
 - I often know better than patients what the best decision is
 - Shared decision making is not professional
 - I do not know exactly how to apply shared decision making
 - I do not have enough time to apply shared decision making
 - Shared decision making is incompatible with standardized treatment protocols
 - I forget to apply shared decision making
 - My colleagues do not have a positive attitude toward shared decision making
 - My employer does not support shared decision making
 - Other, namely:

Screen 10

- Do you have problems with the application of shared decision making?
 - Not applicable (i.e. I never apply shared decision making)
 - No
 - Yes, namely:

Screen 11

- What do you need in order to improve the application of shared decision making in clinical practice?

Appendix 2. Overview of communicative behaviors predefined as essential for SDM, not essential for SDM, and conflicting with SDM

Communicative behaviors essential for SDM
Informing the patient that a decision has to be made
Explaining to the patient that there is more than one treatment option
Informing the patient about the possible pros and cons of the treatment options
Informing the patient how big the chances of these pros and cons are
Explaining to the patient that his/her opinion is important in making the decision
Asking the patient about his/her personal values and preferences
Making the decision together with the patient
Communicative behaviors not essential for SDM
Asking the patient to bring someone to the consultation
Allowing the patient time by making the decision in the next consultation
Giving information in more ways than only verbally (e.g. leaflets, websites)
Letting the patient repeat the given information
Communicative behaviors conflicting with SDM
Explaining to the patient why a certain treatment is chosen
Letting the patient decide after giving thorough information

Abbreviations: SDM, shared decision making.

Appendix 3. Examples of participants' definitions of SDM that were rated as concordant, discordant, and inconclusive

Participants' definitions	Ratings (reasons for ratings)
<p><i>"After discussing the possible treatment options and their associated pros and cons, making an appropriate decision together WITH the patient, considering his/her needs, wishes, and motivations."</i> (rheumatologist, man, 38 years old)</p> <p><i>"Exploring what the patient's treatment expectations are, but also what is important to him/her in life on a daily basis. Discussing possible treatment options and, from this, making a decision together with the patient."</i> (rheumatologist, woman, 40 years old)</p>	<p>Concordant (refers to at least two communicative behaviors essential for SDM: "Explaining to the patient that there is more than one treatment option", "Informing the patient about the possible pros and cons of the treatment options", "Asking the patient about his/her personal values and preferences", and "Making the decision together with the patient").</p> <p>Concordant (refers to at least two communicative behaviors essential for SDM: "Explaining to the patient that there is more than one treatment option", "Asking the patient about his/her personal values and preferences", and "Making the decision together with the patient").</p>
<p><i>"Individualized treatment arrived at by the physician and the patient."</i> (rheumatologist, man, 50 years old)</p> <p><i>"SDM means that the patient is able to have input, but that the physician decides how to manage treatment."</i> (rheumatology nurse, woman, 62 years old)</p>	<p>Discordant (does not refer to any communicative behavior essential for SDM).</p> <p>Discordant (refers to communicative behavior conflicting with SDM: "Explaining to the patient why a certain treatment is chosen").</p>
<p><i>"Making treatment decisions together."</i> (rheumatologist, man, 46 years old)</p> <p><i>"As much as possible, select the best treatment available based on sound reasoning."</i> (nurse specialist, man, 56 years old)</p>	<p>Inconclusive (too short).</p> <p>Inconclusive (too ambiguous).</p>

Abbreviations: SDM, shared decision making.

Appendix 4. Participants' answers to questions about their attitudes and experiences of SDM in rheumatology

Questions	Physicians (n=77)	Nurses (n=70)	P-value
How do you feel about applying SDM in clinical practice?*, n (%)			
<i>(Very) negative</i>	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.04
<i>Neutral</i>	6 (8)	0 (0)	
<i>Positive</i>	44 (57)	39 (56)	
<i>Very positive</i>	27 (35)	31 (44)	
What is your usual decision making style?, n (%)			
<i>I make decisions alone</i>	0	0	0.05
<i>I make decisions after seriously considering my patient's opinion</i>	9 (12)	3 (4)	
<i>My patient and I share responsibility for making decisions</i>	60 (78)	51 (73)	
<i>My patient makes decisions after seriously considering my opinion</i>	8 (10)	16 (23)	
<i>My patient makes decisions alone</i>	0	0	
In what percentage of the situations appropriate for SDM do you apply SDM?*, n (%)			
0%	0 (0)	0 (0)	<0.01
25%	0 (0)	2 (3)	
50%	15 (19)	7 (10)	
75%	52 (68)	39 (56)	
100%	10 (13)	22 (31)	

*Significant difference between physicians and nurses ($p < 0.05$).

Abbreviations: SDM, shared decision making.