

**Title**

Using knowledge elicitation methods to understand the nature and source of variation in speech and language therapists practice/decision-making regarding: dosage of therapy, discharge of children and parent involvement

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In order to provide better service and improve practice for children with language impairment it is important to evaluate current nature of service and decisions and choices made by speech and language therapists. Discharge, dosage of therapy and parent's involvement into the therapy are some of the most important questions when thinking about the quality of the service. This study aimed to explore the specific knowledge that experts are using during the decision-making process regarding the dosage and the discharge of the children from the therapy and the procedures used when working with parents. In this study, qualitative data were collected using individual 'fixed probe' (Shadbolt & Smart) interviews to reveal the characteristics and heuristics leading to discharge; parameters that can be varied in the dosage, factors and rationales that lead to dosage variations and procedures used when working with parents. The target group were therapists of different age and experience, working with children with LI in Croatia. The 60-minute interviews were recorded. In order to analyse the data, interviews were transcribed and coded. Content analysis was used to detect characteristics (factors), explanations and heuristics (rules); thematic analysis was used to identify principles and themes that underlie the decision-making process. This study was a pilot project and the obtained results will be used to prepare knowledge elicitation tasks which will be applied across several European countries to address the posed questions.

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