

Script for the video QL-Recorder in a practice setting integrated via the GDT interface

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1 Preface

The following text describes the contents of the video “The Quality-of-Life-Recorder featuring AnyQuest for Windows - Seamless integration with the Quincy PCnet electronic patient file through the GDT interface”, as its currently available version doesn’t have a soundtrack yet.

The video with a total playing time of less than 3 minutes shows, how a QL-Recorder can be integrated seamlessly into an existing practice IT environment via the GDT interface. In the example shown, the practice IT software is Quincy PCnet by Frey EDV GmbH. However, as most German practice software packages contain an xDT interface, it should be easy to build a similar configuration in almost any German practice equipped with a computer system.

Using such an integrated system, routine measurement of patients’ Quality-of-Life or the application of other questionnaires from medicine or quality assurance becomes easily feasible. Impending workload and resource usage are minimal. In the practice management system, for each patient, a collection of data is generated, including the starting point, the health resources used, and the outcome, measured both in terms of technical parameters as in terms of the patient’s self reported Quality-of-Life.

All components of the QL-Recorder required to set up such a system can be downloaded from the WWW site of the QL-Recorder, including documentation. The available components are already pre-configured for linking the QL-Recorder into an existing Quincy PCnet setup.

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2 Contents of the film

1. Selection of the patient at the reception and initiation of the assessment
 - (a) The first scene shows the reception. The nurse selects the patient in her usual working environment.
 - (b) The patient's electronic medical record is shown.
 - (c) The nurse requests a Quality-of-Life assessment in the system. In the shown configuration, this is done by just pressing ALT-F8 and the Return key.
2. The patient fills in the electronic questionnaire.
 - (a) The nurse takes the patient to the Quality-of-Life Recorder. She briefly explains the purpose and contents of the assessment.
 - (b) The nurse starts the assessment by pressing the button "Go!" shown on the screen.
 - (c) The Quality-of-Life Recorder imports patient identification data from the practice management system via the GDT interface. It asks for a confirmation that this patient shall fill in a questionnaire now.
 - (d) Afterwards, the patient fills in the questionnaire(s) directly at the Quality-of-Life Recorder. In the shown configuration, a relatively large touch-screen is used; but simple hardware solutions down to an old Windows 3.1 PC with a mouse can also work, depending on the target patient population and the available budget.
 - (e) After the assessment, the QL-Recorder says "Thank you!". All results are computed automatically and transferred back to the practice management system via the GDT interface.
3. Using the results in the doctor's cabinet
 - (a) Computed results of the assessment are available at the doctor's workstation immediately. In Quincy PCnet, for example, they can be tabulated in the lab results page of the patient.
 - (b) Additionally, an entry about the completed assessment appears in the patient's electronic history.
 - (c) An example that can be understood very easily will be shown to illustrate one possibility to use the outcome measurement data: A real patient filled in the EORTC QLQ-C30 questionnaire at multiple points in time. All patient identification data originally displayed on the screen have been masked for the video.
 - (d) In the patient's lab results page, data from three measurements with the QLQ-C30 can be found. Above each column with results, the date of the assessment is displayed. The value for "C30 - Pain (Schmerzen)" rose within a few weeks from 33 via 50 to 67 (of a possible maximum of 100). This was due to an aching knee, which did not respond to physiotherapy and diclofenac bandages sufficiently. Finally, the patient underwent arthroscopy. A few days later (however, also after this video was filmed), she filled in the same questionnaire again, and pain had resolved back to 33. Quincy PCnet could easily produce a graph showing her course over time, which is not shown in the video.

References

- [1] Die WWW-Site des Lebensqualitäts-Recorders: <http://www.ql-recorder.com>
- [2] Sigle J: Praktische Aspekte der Lebensqualitäts-Messung: Routinemäßige Messung der Lebensqualität bei Ambulanzpatienten mit einem elektronischen Lebensqualitäts-Recorder. Promotionsarbeit, Universität Ulm, 1997
- [3] Sigle J, Porzsolt F: Practical aspects of quality-of-life measurement: design and feasibility study of the quality-of-life recorder and the standardized measurement of quality of life in an out-patient clinic. *Cancer Treatment Reviews* 22 Supplement A: 75-89, January 1996