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The Malay version of revised summary of diabetes self-care activities (SDSCA) is reliable and valid for use in Malaysian children

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Introduction: Self-care plays an important role in diabetes management. One of the tools used to evaluate self-care in diabetic patients is the Summary of Diabetes Self-Care Activities (SDSCA) questionnaire in English version. A validated instrument in Malay language is needed to assess self-care practice among diabetic patients in Malaysia.

Objective: To translate the revised version of SDSCA questionnaire into Malay language and evaluate its reliability and validity.

Methodology: Translation and back-translation were used. An expert panel reviewed the translated version for conceptual and content equivalence. The final version was then administered to paediatric patients with diabetes mellitus from Ministry of Health and university hospitals between August 2006 and September 2007. Reliability was analysed using Cronbach's alpha while validity was confirmed using construct validity.

Result: A total of 117 patients (92 T1DM) aged 10–18 years were enrolled from eight hospitals. Both male and female gender was equally represented and the ethnic composition closely resembled that of Malaysian population. The reliability of overall core items was 0.735 while the reliabilities of the four domains were in the range of 0.539–0.838. Core item number