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## TARGET@WORK

### INTRODUCTION

Although participation in paid work is an important life area for patients and loss of work might have severe consequences for the physical, emotional and financial situation of patients, no recommendations for the assessment of work ability exist in rheumatology practice.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study was to explore whether rheumatologists and rheumatology nurses  
a) Consider worker participation as a treatment target  
b) Need tools to improve attention and care for participation in paid work.

### METHODS

**Study subjects:**  
Two comparable web-based surveys were developed and disseminated among the rheumatologists and rheumatology nurses in the Netherlands. The questionnaires focussed on  
a) Existing practice in assesment of workability of the patients  
b) Priorities for different treatment targets (including work) and confidence with treatment plantreatms, to be scored on a 0/no priority- 10/highest priority scale  
c) Need to have a standardized tool to adress problems at work  
d) Possible barriers to apply such tool

### RESULTS

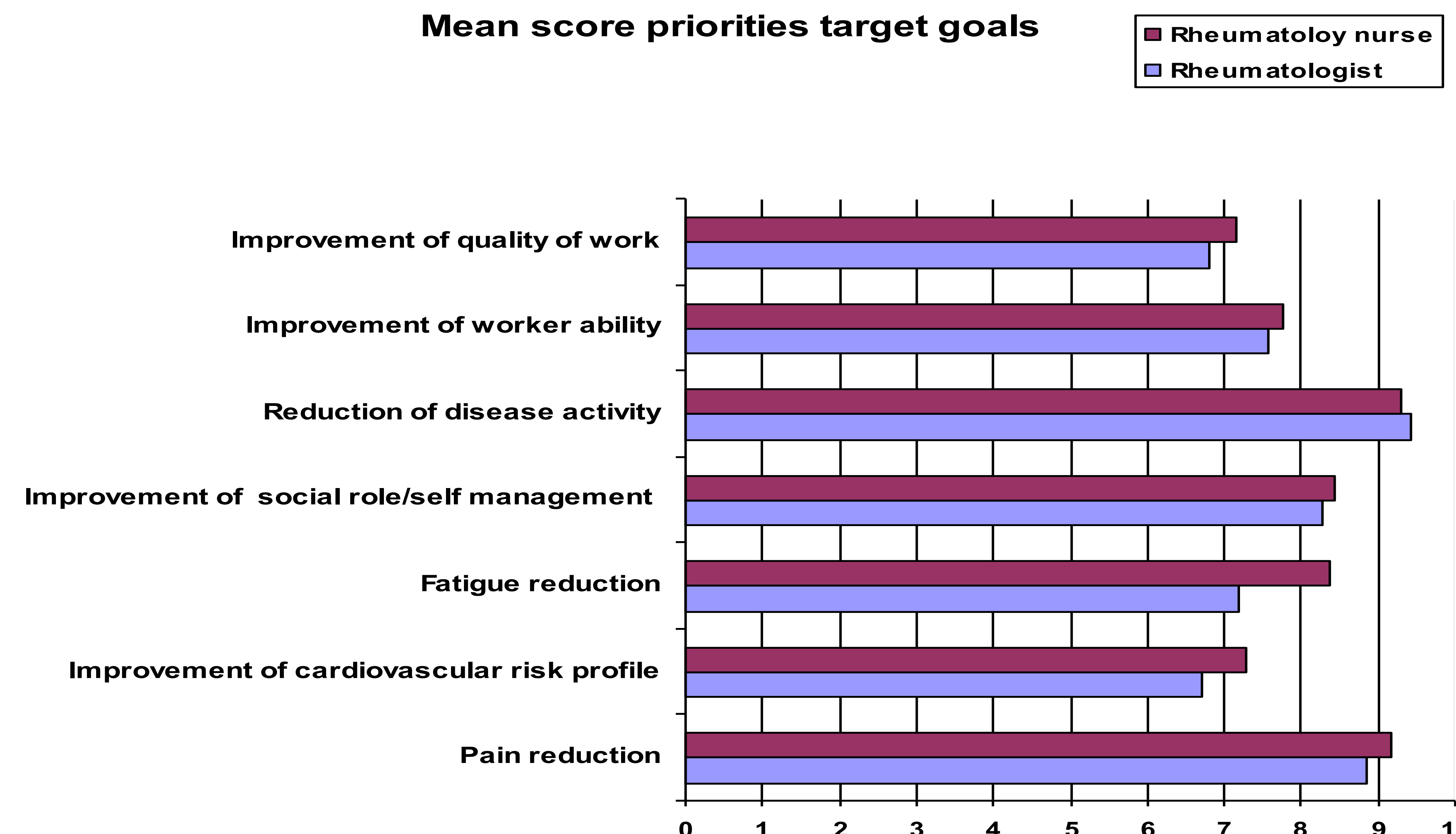
- a) 104 rheumatologists (40%) and 103 nurses (50%) filled in the survey.
- b) 97% of the rheumatologists and 99 % of the nurses considered optimal worker participation a treatment target.
- c) Both groups acknowledge the importance of workparticipation but the gap between priority and confidence with treatmentplans shows that support may be necessary.
- d) Both rheumatologists and nurses considered a tool to assess problems at work and effective interventions important and necessary but effects should be examined.
- e) Of the rheumatologists, 52 % limitations in time a barrier for an active approach in daily practice and 28% referred their patients with problems regarding workparticipation to the rheumatology nurse.



Priority treatment goal: Improve the quality of work

Functie	Frequentie	Cumulative Percent
Rhmtl Valid 2	2	2.0
3	3	5.0
4	3	8.0
5	13	21.0
6	15	36.0
7	28	64.0
8	22	86.0
9	10	96.0
10	4	100.0
Total	100	
Missing System	4	
Total	104	
Nurse Valid 0	1	1.0
1	1	2.0
2	2	4.0
3	1	5.0
4	3	7.9
5	5	12.9
6	11	23.8
7	26	49.5
8	36	85.1
9	8	93.1
10	7	100.0
Total	101	
Missing System	2	
Total	103	

Mean score priorities target goals



### CONCLUSION

The study shows that rheumatologists and nurses consider worker participation as an important treatment target. However, they express a need for (evidence based) tools to identify patients that are at risk for adverse work outcome and for better insight into effective interventions to improve the quality of care regarding work