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## **Translation and cultural adaptation of the Abbey Pain Scale (APS) to a Swedish care context: generating the Swedish APS-SE**

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**Background:** when a patient no longer can communicate verbally, the focus shifts from self-reporting pain to observation for expressions of pain. The Abbey Pain Scale (APS) is an Australian observational scale for assessing pain in patients with end-stage dementia.

**Aim:** to translate and culturally adapt the Swedish version of the Abbey Pain Scale, APS-SE, for patients with dementia who require care from specialised and non-specialised palliative care units.

**Methods:** after an initial discussion of concepts, a forward and backward translation of the APS were made. The APS was then revised and culturally adapted through a series of interviews with nursing assistants, nurses and physicians (n=11) until finally generating the Swedish version, APS-SE.

**Results:** the completed translation and cultural adaptation generated a Swedish version, APS-SE. The interviews pressed the need not only to cultural adapted the scale, but also adapt the APS-SE to the educational and linguistics differences within the staff using it in different care contexts.

**Conclusion:** the APS-SE is conceptually equivalent to the original Australian version. The APS-SE is now ready for the next step, psychometric testing and validation.