

# Adaptation of the Serious Illness Care Programme in the Czech Republic

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## BACKGROUND

Conversations between clinicians and patients about patients' priorities and values are necessary to achieve goal-concordant care, but leading those conversations is challenging. Using conversational guides, such as the **Serious Illness Care Programme (SICP)**, designed by specialists at Ariadne Labs at Harvard University, can be useful to help clinicians navigate through this process.

## AIM

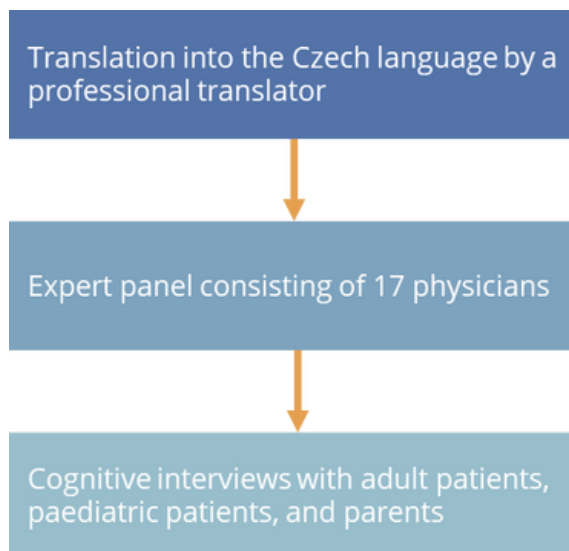
This project aim was **to adapt SICP and its paediatric version for use in the Czech Republic.**

## METHODS

The adaptation was conducted throughout a **multi-stage process**. Firstly, the Serious Illness Conversation Guide (*Bernacki, 2015*) and the Paediatric Serious Illness Conversation Guide (*DeCoursey, 2021*) were **translated into the Czech language** by a professional translator and subsequently revised by the research team. During the second stage, both revised guides were submitted for **revision to an expert panel consisting of 17 physicians experienced in palliative care and communication**. An agreement regarding the translation was achieved after 2 rounds in the paediatric version of the guide and 3 rounds in the adult version. This stage was followed by **cognitive interviews with adult patients, paediatric patients, and parents** (4 in each group) to assess the relevance of the questions, its wording and understandability. Findings of the cognitive interviews were discussed within the research team and amendments to the guides were made accordingly.

## RESULTS

By using different techniques **it was possible to successfully adapt both guides to the local culture**. The involvement of patients in the adaptation process was an important aspect, highlighting the need for trusting relationship with the clinician and right timing of the conversation. **Both professionals and patients highlighted the value of such communication guides.**



## DISCUSSION

Although the adaptation of SICP into a different cultural context represents a challenging process it represents an important step towards better communication between clinicians and seriously ill patients. Currently, the Czech version of the SICP protocol is being tested in clinical practice. Feedback from clinicians was obtained via 2 focus groups with nine clinicians and via a questionnaires (N=18).

**Original version of SICP protocol is available at:** <https://www.ariadnelabs.org/serious-illness-care/for-clinicians/>

## Citations:

*Bernacki R, et al. BMJ Open 2015;5:e009032. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2015-009032*

*DeCoursey DD, et al. J Pediatr. 2021 Feb;229:247-258.e8. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2020.09.030.*

