

TABLE 2 Methods used to measure sustained continuity of care

Ref.	Author (Year published)	Minimum requirements to determine SCOC	Length of time to determine SCOC	Source of data (RR)	Method of SCOC Measurement
21	Breslau (1981)	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Parent survey (369/460; 80%)	Child Continuity Index: 2 items which inquire whether the respondent's child always sees the same doctor at the clinic. "My child hardly ever sees the same doctor when he/she goes for medical care" and "my child sees the same doctor just about every time he/she goes for medical care." (score 1 to 5 for each item)
22	Chao (1988)	1 visit 2 yrs ago or longer, and 1 visit within the last 2 yrs	2 yrs	Patient survey (147/223; 66%)	Perception of Continuity (PC) Scale: 23 statements that describe various aspects of an ongoing patient-physician longitudinal relationship; derived from chronological, geographic, interdisciplinary, interpersonal and informational dimensions of continuity (range 1; low to 5; high continuity)
				Medical record review (NA)	Usual provider continuity (UPC) Index: Based on fraction of visits to the usual provider. Continuity of Care (COC) Index: Based on number of visits to each provider seen and dispersion of visits among different providers.
33	Christakis (2001)	Not mentioned	Up to 5 yrs	Medical claims (NA)	Continuity of Care (COC) Index: Based on number of visits to each provider seen and dispersion of visits among different providers.
34	Christakis (2001)	At least 4 outpatient visits, continuous enrollment in plan for at least 2 yrs	At least 2 yrs	Medical claims (NA)	Continuity of Care (COC) Index: Based on number of visits to each provider seen and dispersion of visits among different providers.
35	Christakis (2000)	At least 4 outpatient visits; continuous enrollment in plan for first 15 months of life	Up to 15 mos	Medical claims (NA)	Continuity of Care (COC) Index: Based on number of visits to each provider seen and dispersion of visits among different providers.
23	Cornelius (1997)	At least 3 outpatient visits	1 yr	Household survey (80%)	Usual provider continuity (UPC) Index: Based on fraction of visits to the usual provider. Categorical UPC Index: Based on fraction of visits to the usual provider. If $UPC \leq 0.5$, then index was defined as "low continuity," if $UPC > 0.5$, then index was defined as "high continuity."

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24	Ettner (1999)	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Patient survey (61%)	Single survey item: "Do you have one particular doctor who you usually see?" (yes/no)
25	Freeman (1994)	At least 3 outpatient visits, registered in practice for at least 2 yrs	12 most recent outpatient visits	Medical record review (NA)	Usual provider continuity-12 (UPC₁₂) Index: Based on the percentage of the 12 most recent consultations with the most frequently recorded doctor.
36	Gill (1998)	At least 3 outpatient visits in first yr; continuous enrollment in plan for at least 2 yrs	1 yr	Medical claims (NA)	Modified Modified Continuity Index (MMCI): Based on dispersion and total number of providers seen, total number of visits. Usual provider continuity (UPC) Index: Based on fraction of visits to the usual provider.
26	Gill (2000)	At least 3 outpatient visits; continuous enrollment in plan for 1 yr	1 yr	Medical claims (NA)	Modified Modified Continuity Index (MMCI): Based on dispersion and total number of providers seen, total number of visits. Usual provider continuity (UPC) Index: Based on fraction of visits to the usual provider.
27	Love (2000)	At least 2 outpatient visits in last 1 yr	1 yr	Patient survey (60%)	Single survey item: "Over the past 12 months, when you went for medical care, how often did you see the same doctor or provider?" (4 response categories: "always" "most of the time" "sometimes," and "rarely or never")
28	O'Malley (1996)	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Patient survey (NM)	Single survey item: "Is there a particular medical person (the child) usually sees at the (place identified above) when (the child) is sick?"
29	O'Malley (1997)	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Patient survey (62%)	Combined survey items: (1) "Is there one place that you usually go to if you are sick or need advice about your health?" (2) "Is there one place that you go most often when you are sick or need advice about your health?" (3) "Is there currently a particular person you see at this place?" Continuity of care determined by information on continuity of site and of provider (no usual site or clinician; usual site, but no regular clinician; regular site and regular clinician).

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30	Strumberg (2001)	At least 4 outpatient visits within 2 yr period	2 yrs	Medical record review (NA)	Modified continuity index (MCI): Accounts for number of visits and number of providers. Patients with an MCI ≥ 0.66 were considered to have "continuity."
31	Weiss (1989)	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Household survey (68%)	Single survey item: With the exclusion of emergencies and care received from specialists, respondents were asked whether they always see the same physician when sick, see one of a small group of physician who work together, attend a clinic or medical center where a different physician may be seen on each occasion, or have no regular source of medical care.
32	Lambrew (1996)	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Household survey (80%)	Single survey item: whether or not the individual had a regular doctor.
37	Parchman (2002)	DM Type II for at least 1 yr, enrolled in clinic for at least 1 yr	At least 1 yr	Patient survey (71% completed follow-up)	Modified Modified Continuity Index (MMCI): Based on dispersion and total number of providers seen, total number of visits.

DM, diabetes mellitus; RR, response rate; SCOC, sustained continuity of care; NA, not applicable; NM, not mentioned