

Patient Pathway Evaluation Framework

About this Leaflet

This leaflet provides the core insights to a **new patient pathway evaluation framework**. It builds on scientific findings and provides a more comprehensive approach, defining **five essential evaluation dimensions** to guide the selection of relevant criteria for patient pathway evaluation, with options to integrate disease-specific criteria for a more tailored assessment.

This work was conducted in cooperation with the **Research Group Digital Health** at the TUD Dresden University of Technology.

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Definition

“A **patient pathway** is an evidence-based tool that supports the **planning and management** of the care process of individual patients within a group of similar patients with **complex, long-term conditions**. It details the phases of care, guiding the whole **journey a patient takes** by defining goals and milestones, and supports mutual decision-making by the patient and his/her **multidisciplinary care team** collaborating in a **comprehensive network of care providers.**”



Source: Richter, Hickmann & Schlieter (2021): *Validating the concept of patient pathways: a European survey on their characteristics, definition and state of practice*. Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems 2021: 32.

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3 Network & Team

Criteria assessing to what extent the implementation of the pathway led to an improvement in team work, care coordination and seamless service provision.

- coordination of care services
- team communication and motivation
- interdisciplinary collaboration

4 Processes

Criteria enabling a structured assessment of resource utilization and associated bottlenecks in or deviations from the patient pathway.

- average process duration
- average waiting times
- average transfer times
- completeness and quality of documentation
- deviations from the pathway

5 Economic Efficiency

Criteria assessing the financial impact and efficiency gains that are achieved by implementing a pathway.

- average duration of hospital stay
- consumption costs of material resources
- resource utilization

Checklist for Pathway Evaluation

- ✓ **Responsible personnel** for ongoing evaluation and revision of the patient pathway are assigned.
- ✓ **Evaluation goals** align with the pathway's objectives and initial analyses from network, provider, and patient perspectives, as well as available evidence.
- ✓ **Evaluation criteria** were selected and prioritized, and appropriate **data collection methods and instruments** have been defined.
- ✓ The **process for conducting the evaluation**, including task and timeline planning, has been described and communicated to all partners involved in the pathway.
- ✓ Essential **data** for pathway evaluation has been **collected and analyzed**.
- ✓ **Results** from data collection were interpreted, and necessary pathway **adjustments** are underway.



Source: Richter & Schlieter (2024): *Patientenpfade in der integrierten Versorgung: Praxishandbuch für die erfolgreiche Entwicklung und digitale Implementierung*. Wiesbaden: Springer Gabler. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-658-44986-5