Patient Pathway Evaluation Framework

About this I eaflet

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 decisionmaking 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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Clinical & Functional Outomes

Criteria related to the disease addressed and the effects of the interventions anchored in the patient pathway.

- complication rate
- mortality rate
- readmission rate
- pain reduction rate
- infections rate
- time to mobilization after therapy

Patient-centeredness & Services

Criteria assessing the quality of care and services offered in the care network, particularly from the patient's perspective.

- patient satisfaction
- perceived quality of care services
- quality of life
- · decision confidence
- patient empowerment
- shared decision-making



Evaluation of Patient Pathways

The goal of evaluating patient pathways in comprehensive care networks is to **continuously monitor and enhance pathway effectiveness and efficiency**. It aims to assess goal achievement and adherence to key interventions defined in the pathway.

A systematic assessment of quantitative and qualitative evaluation criteria provides insights for targeted improvements of patient pathways. It ensures that pathways stay aligned with recent recommendations of clinical practice guidelines and healthcare network contexts in a changing healthcare landscape.

Continuous evaluation embeds a network's patient pathways in an **ongoing improvement process**.

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



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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

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

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