Value-Based Health Care Delivery: Integrated Practice Units, and Outcome and Cost Measurement

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This presentation draws on Michael E. Porter and Elizabeth Olmsted Teisberg: Redefining Health Care: Creating Value-Based Competition on Results, Harvard Business School Press, May 2006, and "How Physicians Can Change the Future of Health Care," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2007; 297:1103:1111. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise — without the permission of Michael E. Porter and Elizabeth Olmsted Teisberg. Further information about these ideas, as well as case studies, can be found on the website of the Institute for Strategy & Competitiveness at http://www.isc.hbs.edu.

What is Integrated Care?

Attributes of an Integrated Practice Unit (IPU):

- 1. Organized around the patient
- 2. Provides the full cycle of care for a medical condition, including patient education, engagement, and follow-up
 - Encompasses inpatient, outpatient, and rehabilitative care as well as supporting services (e.g. nutrition, social work)

What is a Medical Condition

- A medical condition is an interrelated set of patient medical circumstances best addressed in an integrated way
 - Defined from the patient's perspective
 - Including the most common co-occurring conditions and complications
 - Involving multiple specialties and services
- IPUs can address a single medical condition or groups of closely related medical conditions involving similar specialties, services, and expertise



 The patient's medical condition is the unit of value creation in health care delivery

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- 3. Involves a **dedicated team** who devote a significant portion of their time to the medical condition
- 4. Providers are part of a common organizational unit
- 5. Co-located in dedicated facilities
- 6. Utilizing a single administrative and scheduling structure
- 7. A physician team captain and a care manager oversee each patient's care process
- 8. The team **meets formally and informally as a group** and in subgroups on a regular basis
- 9. Measures processes and outcomes as a team, not individually
- 10. Accepts joint accountability for outcomes and costs

Integrated Cancer Care MD Anderson Head and Neck Center

Dedicated	Shared
Dedicated MDs - 8 Medical Oncologists -12 Surgical Oncologists - 8 Radiation Oncologists - 5 Dentists - 1 Diagnostic Radiologist - 1 Pathologist - 4 Opthalmologists	-Endocrinologists -Other specialists as needed (cardiologists, plastic surgeons, etc.)
-22 Nurses - 3 Social Workers - 4 Speech Pathologists - 1 Nutritionist - 1 Patient Advocate	-Dietician -Inpatient Nutritionists -Radiation Nutritionists -Smoking Cessation Counselors
Facilities -Dedicated Outpatient Unit	Shared Facilities (located nearby) -Radiation Therapy -Inpatient Wards -Pathology Lab → Medical Wards -Ambulatory Chemo Unit → Surgical Wards -ORs (grouped by needs)

Source: Jain, Sachin H. and Michael E. Porter, *The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center: Interdisciplinary Cancer Care*, Harvard Business School Case 9-708-487, May 1, 2008

What is Not Integrated Care?

Integrated care is **not** the same as:

- Co-location per se
- Care delivered by the same organization
- A multispecialty group practice
- Freestanding focused factories
- A Clinical Pathway
- An Institute or Center
- A Center of Excellence
- A health plan/provider system (e.g. Kaiser Permanente)
- Medical Homes
- Accountable Care Organizations

Integrated Care Involves the Patient Breast Cancer

INFORMING AND ENGAGING	Advice on self screening Consultations on risk factors	Counseling patient and family on the diagnostic process and the diagnosis	Explaining patient treatment options/shared decision making Patient and family psychological counseling	Counseling on the treatment process Education on managing side effects and avoiding complications of treatment Achieving compliance	Counseling on rehabilitation options, process Achieving compliance Psychological counseling	Counseling on long term risk management Achieving Compliance
MEASURING	Self exams Mammograms	Mammogrants Ultrasound MRI Labs (CBC, Blood chems, etc.) Biopsy BRACA 1, 2 CT Bone Scans	Labs	Procedure-specific measurements	Range of movement Side effects measurement	MRI, CT Recurring mammograms (every six months for the first 3 years)
ACCESSING	Office visits Mammography lab visits	Office visits	Office visits	Hospital stays	Office visits	Office visits
	The state of the s	Lab visits High risk clinic visits	Hospital visits Lab visits	Visits to outpatient radiation or chemotherapy units Pharmacy	Rehabilitation facility visits Pharmacy	Lab visits Mammographic labs and imaging cent visits
		Thigh their diame their		Pharmacy		
	MONITORING/ PREVENTING	DIAGNOSING	PREPARING	INTERVENING	RECOVERING/ REHABING	MONITORING/MANAGING
	Medical history Control of risk factors (obesity, high fat diet) Genetic screening Clinical exams Monitoring for lumps	bl of risk factors ty, high fat diet) ic screening Determining the specific nature of the disease (mammograms, nathology, biopsy results)	plan pres Surgery prep (anesthetic mass	Surgery (breast preservation or mastectomy, oncoplastic alternative)	In-hospital and outpatient wound healing Treatment of side effects (e.g. skin damage, cardiac complications,	Periodic mammography Other imaging Follow-up clinical exams
		Genetic evaluation			nausea, lymphodema and chronic fatigue)	Treatment for any continued or later onset side effects or
		Labs	Plastic or onco-plastic surgery evaluation Neo-adjuvant chemotherapy	Adjuvant therapies (hormonal medication, radiation, and/or chemotherapy)		complications
					Physical therapy	
			1	1		ancer Specialist povider Entities

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Integrated Models of Primary Care

 Today's primary care is fragmented and attempts to address overly broad needs with limited resources



Value-Based Primary Care

- Prevention, screening, diagnosis, wellness and health maintenance service bundles
- Designed around specific patient populations (e.g. healthy adults, frail elderly, type II diabetics) rather than attempting to be all things to all patients
- Services are provided by multidisciplinary teams, ancillary health professionals, and support staff in dedicated facilities
- Delivered not only in traditional facilities but at the workplace, community organizations, and in other settings that offer regular patient contact and the ability to develop a group culture of wellness
- With formal alliances with specialty IPUs representing prevalent medical conditions among the patient base

IPUs and Value

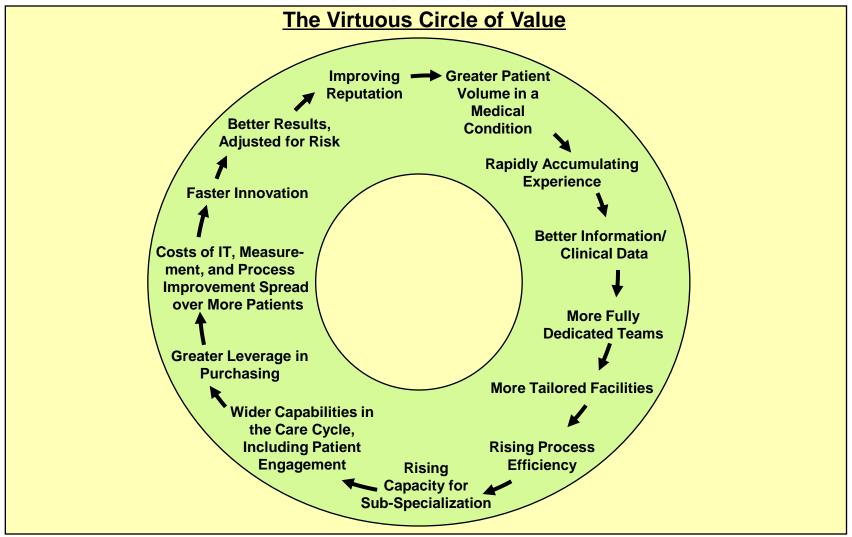
Outcomes

- Better decisions in terms of diagnosis and treatment
 - -Specialized experience and expertise
 - -Better coordination/peer review
 - -Better integration of co-occurrences
- Better execution of treatment
 - -Specialized experience and expertise
 - -Tailored facilities
 - -Seamless management of common co- occurrences
- Faster cycle time
- Improved patient compliance and
- engagement with care
- Full range of support services needed to achieve success for the patient (e.g. nutrition, rehabilitation, counseling, psychological support)
- Vastly greater patient convenience

Cost

- Greater provider and team efficiency
- Better utilization of facilities
- Streamlined administrative costs

Volume and Experience in a Medical Condition Drive Patient Value





 Volume and experience have an even greater impact on value in an IPU structure than in the current system

Fragmentation of Hospital Services <u>Sweden</u>

DRG	Number of admitting providers	Average percent of total national admissions	Average admissions/ provider/ year	Average admissions/ provider/ week
Knee Procedure	68	1.5%	55	1
Diabetes age > 35	80	1.3%	96	2
Kidney failure	80	1.3%	97	2
Multiple sclerosis and cerebellar ataxia	78	1.3%	28	1
Inflammatory bowel disease	73	1.4%	66	1
Implantation of cardiac pacemaker	51	2.0%	124	2
Splenectomy age > 17	37	2.6%	3	<1
Cleft lip & palate repair	7	14.2%	83	2
Heart transplant	6	16.6%	12	<1

Source: Compiled from The National Board of Health and Welfare Statistical Databases - DRG Statistics, Accessed April 2, 2009.

Fragmentation of Hospital Services <u>Japan</u>

Procedure	Number of hospitals performing the procedure	Average number of procedures per provider per year	Average number of procedures per provider per week
Craniotomy	1,098	71	1.4
Operation for gastric cancer	2,336	72	1.4
Operation for lung cancer	710	46	0.9
Joint replacement	1,680	50	1.0
Pacemaker implantation	1,248	40	0.8
Laparoscopic procedure	2,004	72	1.4
Endoscopic procedure	2,482	202	3.9
Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty	1,013	133	2.6

Source: Porter, Michael E. and Yuji Yamamoto, *The Japanese Health Care System: A Value-Based Competition Perspective*, Unpublished White Paper, September 1, 2007

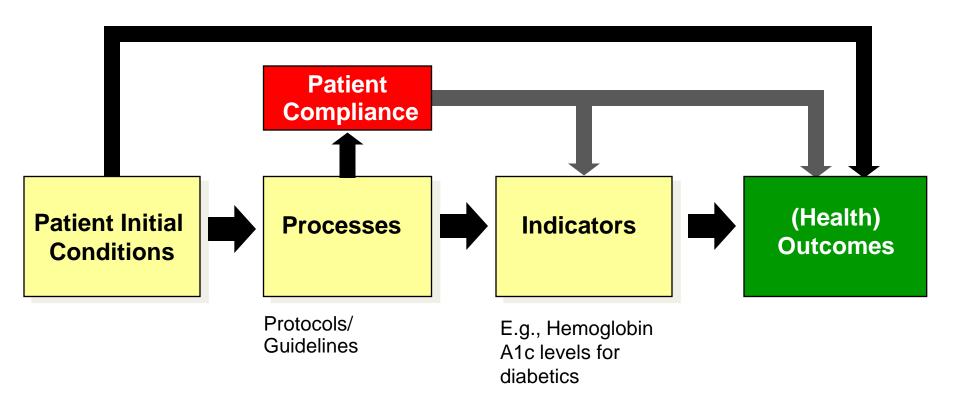
2. Measure Outcomes and Cost for Every Patient

- For medical conditions
- Real time and "on-line" in care delivery, not just retrospective
- Not for interventions or short episodes
- Not separately for types of service (e.g. inpatient, outpatient, tests, rehabilitation)
- Not for practices, departments, clinics, or entire hospitals

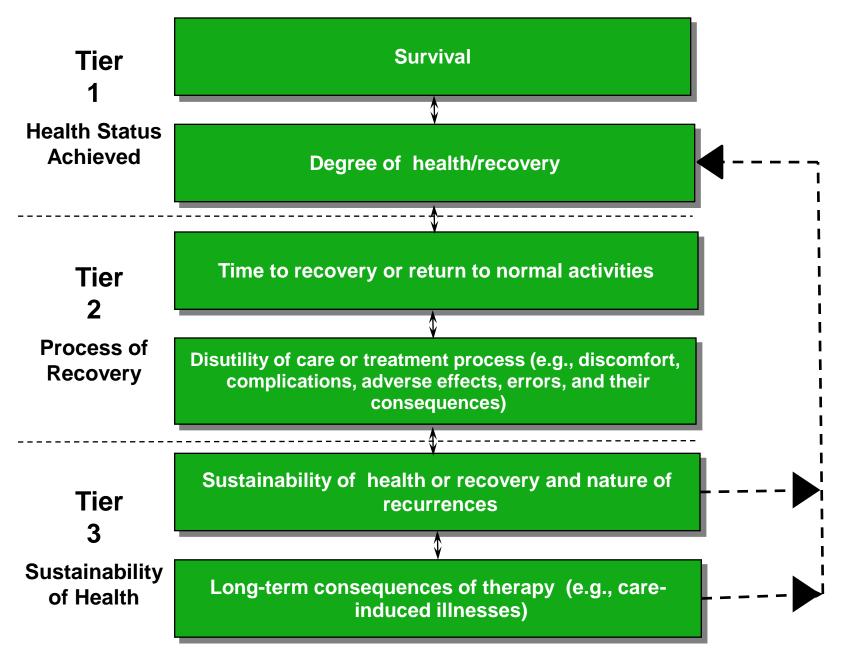


Volume measurement and reporting by medical condition is an interim first step

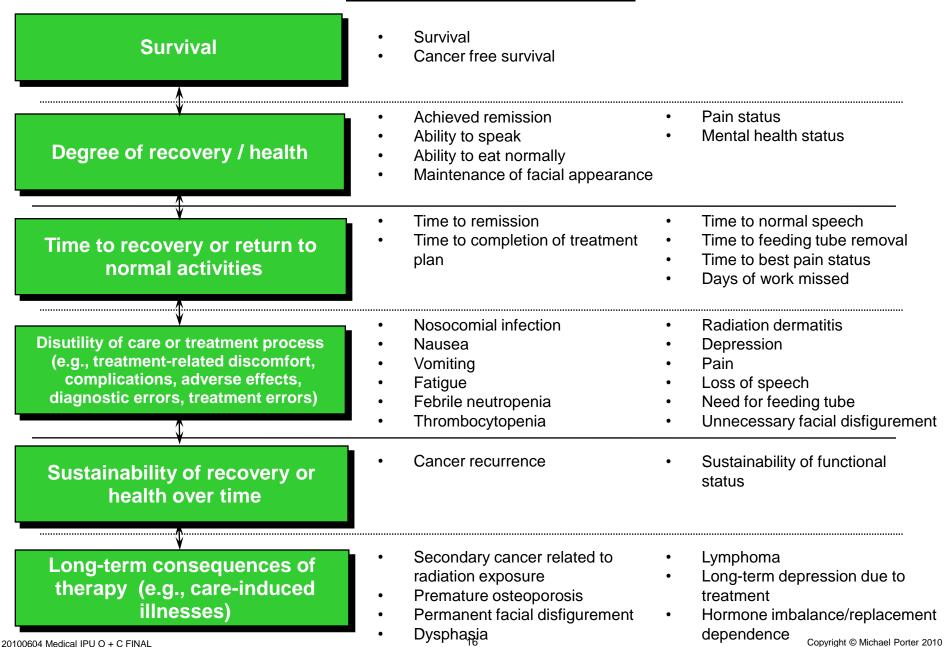
Dimensions of Measurement



The Outcome Measures Hierarchy



The Outcomes Measures Hierarchy Head and Neck Cancer



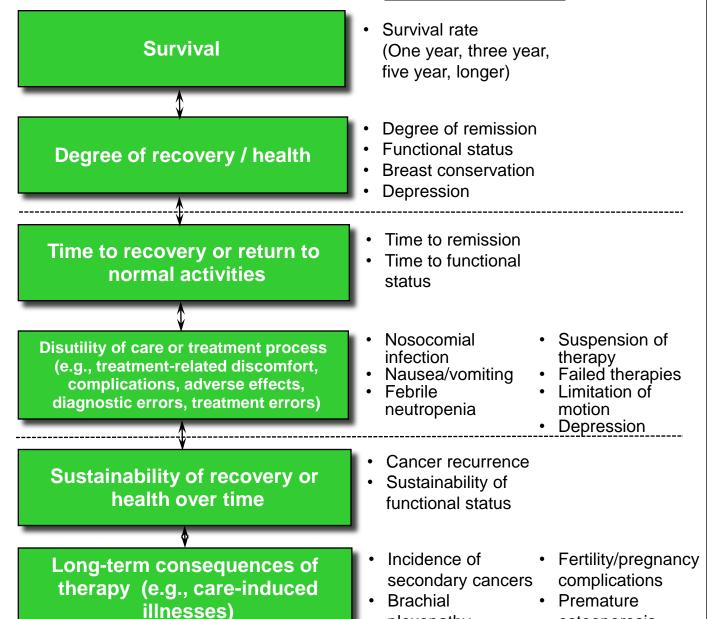
Head and Neck Outcome Measures: MD Anderson

Dimension Measure Survival rate Two-year, five-year Survival Disease free survival Degree of remission **Functional status** Can the patient swallow Degree of recovery / health normally Can the patient talk normally Percent of all treatments Time of care process Time to recovery or return to completed within 100 days normal activities Inconvenience of care "Time-tos" (referral, appt., Disutility of care or treatment process treatment, etc) process (e.g., treatment-related discomfort, Complications of care Count of postoperative complications, adverse effects, diagnostic errors, treatment errors) complications process Count of readmissions Disease-free survival Cancer recurrence Sustainability of recovery or health over time Incidence of secondary Long-term consequences of cancers therapy (e.g., care-induced illnesses)

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The Outcome Measures Hierarchy

Breast Cancer

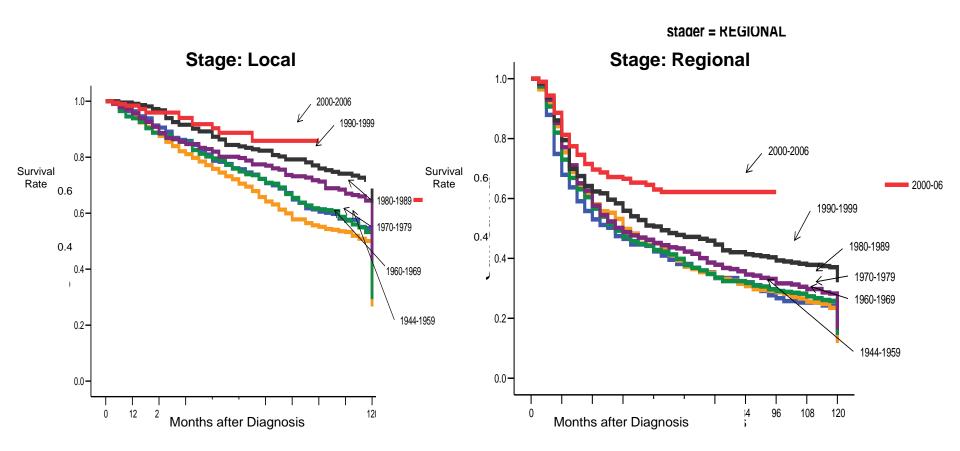


Initial Conditions/Risk Factors

- Stage upon diagnosis
- Type of cancer (infiltrating ductal carcinoma, tubular, medullary, lobular, etc.)
- Estrogen and progesterone receptor status (positive or negative)
- Sites of metastases
- Previous treatments
- Age
- Menopausal status
- General health, including comorbidities
- Psychological and social factors

plexopathy osteoporosis

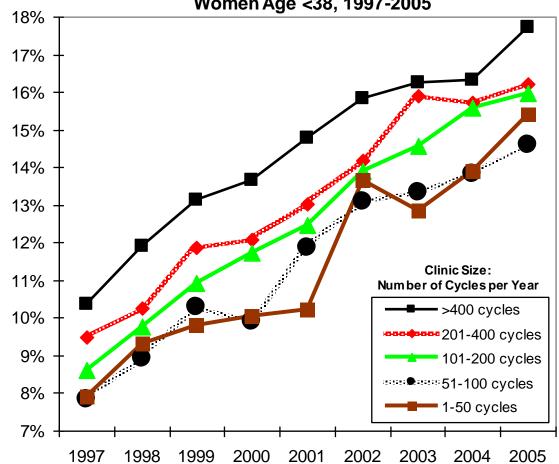
MD Anderson Oral Cavity Cancer Survival by Registration Year



Source: MD Anderson Cancer Center

In-vitro Fertilization Success Rates Over Time

Percent Live Births per Fresh, Non-Donor Embryo Transferred by Clinic Size Women Age <38, 1997-2005



Source: Michael Porter, Saquib Rahim, Benjamin Tsai, *Invitro Fertilization: Outcomes Measurement*. Harvard Business School Press, 2008

Swedish National Quality Registers, 2007*

Respiratory Diseases

- Respiratory Failure Register (Swedevox)
- Swedish Quality Register of Otorhinolaryngology

Childhood and Adolescence

- The Swedish Childhood Diabetes Registry (SWEDIABKIDS)
- Childhood Obesity Registry in Sweden (BORIS)
- Perinatal Quality Registry/Neonatology (PNQn)
- National Registry of Suspected/Confirmed Sexual Abuse in Children and Adolescents (SÖK)

Circulatory Diseases

- Swedish Coronary Angiography and Angioplasty Registry (SCAAR)
- Registry on Cardiac Intensive Care (RIKS-HIA)
- Registry on Secondary Prevention in Cardiac Intensive Care (SEPHIA)
- Swedish Heart Surgery Registry
- Grown-Up Congenital Heart Disease Registry (GUCH)
- National Registry on Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest
- Heart Failure Registry (RiksSvikt)
- National Catheter Ablation Registry
- Vascular Registry in Sweden (Swedvasc)

- National Quality Registry for Stroke (Riks-Stroke)
- National Registry of Atrial Fibrillation and Anticoagulation (AuriculA)

Endocrine Diseases

- National Diabetes Registry (NDR)
- Swedish Obesity Surgery Registry (SOReg)
- Scandinavian Quality Register for Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery

Gastrointestinal Disorders

- Swedish Hernia Registry
- Swedish Quality Registry on Gallstone Surgery (GallRiks)
- Swedish Quality Registry for Vertical Hernia

Musculoskeletal Diseases

- Swedish Shoulder Arthroplasty Registry
- National Hip Fracture Registry (RIKSHÖFT)
- Swedish National Hip Arthroplasty Register
- Swedish Knee Arthroplasty Register
- Swedish Rheumatoid Arthritis Registry
- National Pain Rehabilitation Registry
- Follow-Up in Back Surgery
- Swedish Cruciate Ligament Registry X-Base
- Swedish National Elbow Arthroplasty Register (SAAR)

^{*} Registers Receiving Funding from the Executive Committee for National Quality Registries in 2007

Swedish National Quality Registers*, continued

Diseases of the Nervous System

- Swedish Multiple Sclerosis Registry (SMS)
- Quality Registry for Children with Cerebral Palsy (CPUP)
- Quality Registry in Rehabilitation Medicine (WebRehab Sweden)
- Swedish Dementia Registry (SveDem)

Genitourinary Disorders

- National Quality Registry for Gynecological Surgery (GYNOP)
- Swedish Renal Registry (SRR)

Cancer

- National Breast Cancer Registry
- National Quality Registry for Esophageal and Stomach Cancer (NREV)
- National Prostate Cancer Registry
- Swedish Rectal Cancer Registry
- Swedish Gyn-Oncology Registry
- Swedish Colon Cancer Registry

Eye Diseases

- Swedish Corneal Transplant Register
- Swedish National Cataract Register
- Macula Register

Other Areas

- National Quality Registry for Specialized
- Treatment for Eating Disorders (RIKSÄT)
- Swedish Intensive Care Registry (SIR)
- Swedish Psoriasis Registry (PsoReg)
- InfCare HIV
- Swedish Therapeutic Apheresis Registry
- Swedish Quality Register in Caries and Periodontitis
- Swedish National Registry of Palliative Care
- National Registry on Nutrition, Fall Prevention, and Pressure Sores (Senior Alert)
- Quality Registry for Emergent Care

^{*} Registers Receiving Funding from the Executive Committee for National Quality Registries in 2007

Swedish National Quality Registers, continued

Other Registries**

- National Quality Registry for Bladder Cancer
- National Gynecological Cell Testing Register (preventive examinations for uterine cancer)
- National Register of Treatment Follow-up for Severe ADHD (BUSA)
- National Quality Register for Bipolar Affective Disorder (BipoläR)
- Schizophrenia
- Swedish Anesthesiology Registry
- Swedish Dental Implant Register
- Swedish Quality Register for General Thoracic Surgery
- National Register for In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest
- National Quality Register for IVF
- Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS)
- Drug-Assisted Rehabilitation of Opiate Dependence (LAROS)
- Metabolic Effects of Antipsychotic Drug Treatment
- National Primary Care Database
- National Quality Registry for Primary Care

^{**} Register applicants that did not receive funding from the Executive Committee for National Quality Registries in 2007

Creating an Outcome Measurement System 1. Designing Outcome Measures: Part I

- Establish an outcome measures team including all physicians, nurses and skilled staff involved in the care cycle
 - Ensure that some research oriented clinicians are active participants
- Define the medical condition
 - Set of interrelated medical problems
 - Co-occurring conditions included
- Create a Care Delivery Value Chain for the condition
 - Also essential for activity-based cost analysis

The Care Delivery Value Chain <u>Acute Knee-Osteoarthritis Requiring Replacement</u>

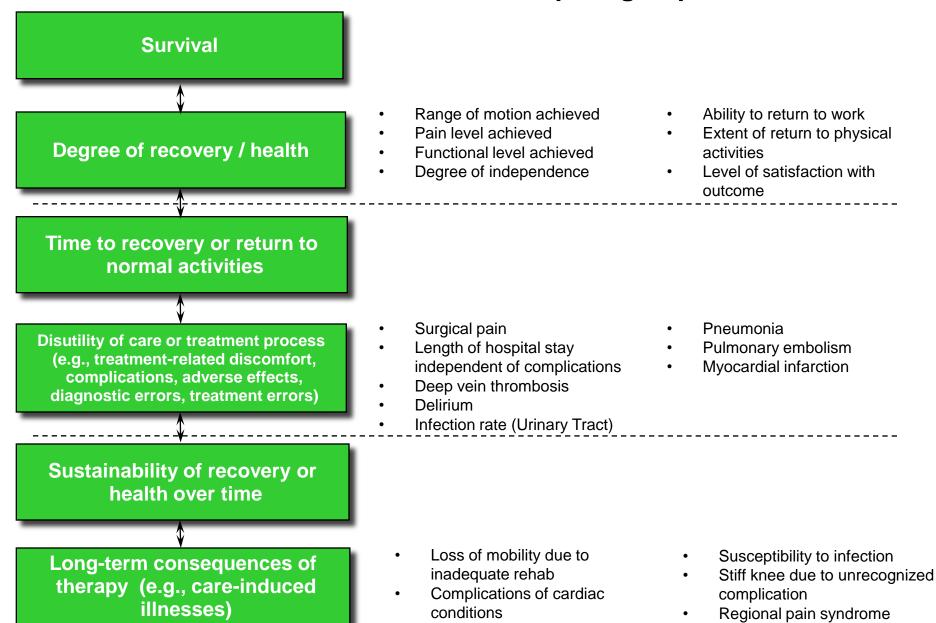
INFORMING AND ENGAGING	Education and promotion of exercise, weight reduction, proper nutrition	Education on meaning of diagnosis and prognosis of disease – short and long term outcomes Expectation setting	Counseling on benefits/ drawbacks of surgery Shared Decision Making Country C	Maintenance and reassurance of expectations and the importance of rehab Set expectations for surgery recovery and immediate steps Team consistency	Counseling on necessity of rehab, rehab exercises, and compliance Monitoring compliance	Counsel to maintain exercise and healthy weight
MEASURING	■ Self reported loss of function ■ Pain level ■ WOMAC, SF-36	MRI, X-Ray results Kellgran Lawrence scale- level of osteoarthritis Assess loss of cartilage/ alterations in subchondral bone Mental state(Gestalt) Pain level WOMAC, SF-36	■ WOMAC, SF 36 ■ Range of motion ■ Pain level ■ Blood pressure ■ Blood labs	■ Heart rate ■ Temperature ■ Blood pressure ■ Blood loss ■ Complications	■ Range of motion ■ Ability to walk, live independently, work: WOMAC, SF-36 ■ Pain level ■ Infections (i.e. UTI) ■ Post-op X-ray ■ Weight gain/loss ■ Mental state (gestalt)	 Range of motion Activities Pain level Missed work WOMAC, SF-36 Mental state
ACCESSING	■ PCP office visits ■ Health club ■ Physical therapy office	Specialty office Imaging facility	Specialty office Surgical prep room (hospital of surgical center)	Operating room, recovery, orthopedic floor (arthroplasty specific ward) at hospital or specialty surgery center	Home, Skilled Nursing Facility, or Rehab Facility The PT at home or at PT office Operating Room	Specialty office Primary care office Heath club
	MONITORING/ PREVENTING	DIAGNOSING	PREPARING	INTERVENING	RECOVERING/	MONITORING/
	Monitor				REHABING	MANAGING

Orthopedic Specialist
Other Provider Entities

1. Designing Outcome Measures: Part II

- Use the outcome hierarchy to define a comprehensive set of outcome dimensions, and specific measures
 - There will inevitably be a mix of objective, quantitative values and surveys/scoring
 - Seek the specific measures/metrics which are validated or have a strong suspicion of causality, and ideally have been internationally tested
 - Seek the most objective measures of each outcome possible, but do not fail to measure outcomes whose measures involve surveys or scoring
 - Short term practicality is a concern but should not be a constraint
 - The range of outcomes measured can start small but then expand over time

The Outcomes Measures Hierarchy Acute Knee-Osteoarthritis Requiring Replacement



Risk of complex fracture

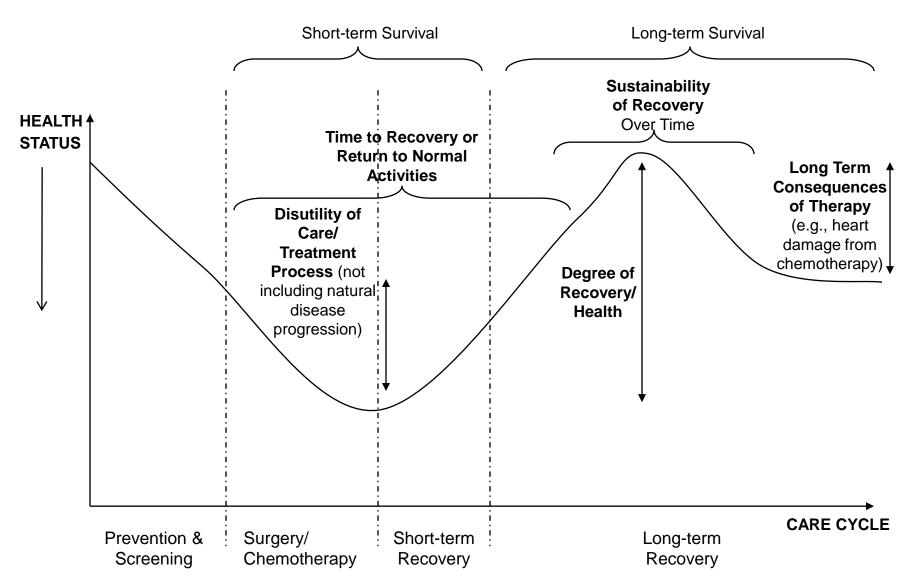
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1. Designing Outcome Measures: Part III

- Tie the set of outcome measures to the CDVC to check for completeness and start to identify the causal connection between activities and each outcome
 - Outcomes can often be linked to multiple parts of the care cycle (e.g. cycle time, survival risks)

Outcomes Along the Care Cycle Cancer Care



Diagnosis

1. Designing Outcome Measures: Part IV

- Identify the set of initial conditions or risk factors necessary to control for patient differences
 - Start with a broad set of initial conditions to be explored
 - The list will evolve over time
 - It will narrow as some risk factors prove to be controllable, not actually causal, or not important
 - o It will expand as new insights are gained

Initial Conditions/Risk Factors <u>Total Knee Replacement</u>

Demographic Status

- Age
- Gender
- Weight (Obese?)
- Ethnicity

Primary disease

- WOMAC, SF-36
- Rheumatoid Arthritis vs.
 Osteoarthritis
- Double/single
- Revision

Rehab related

- Fitness Level
- Ability to live independently

Co-morbidity

- Mental Status (e.g. MM)
- Diabetes
- Stroke
- Cardiac disease
- Other chronic conditions

Exogenous Factors

Patient Circumstances

- Family involvement
- Caregiver presence

Economic

Insurance Coverage

Creating an Outcome Measurement System 2. Collecting Outcome Data

- Extract available information from administrative/billing systems
- Identify the best placed individual(s) for entering new data and making the most informed judgment on each measure
 - E.g. which physicians, nurses, possible dedicated measurement staff
- Chart review, manual entry, and customized web templates are starting points to expand the measures tracked



- A single patient identifier, designed to protect privacy, will dramatically improve the ability to improve the efficiency and sophistication of outcome measurement
 - E.g. Ability to utilize existing data from multiple sources versus have to create codes for each provider and medical condition

2. Collecting Outcome Data: Part II

EMR Capture

- Identify modifications to EMR design to allow efficient collection/recording of measures for each patient, including patient input and survey, and avoid duplication of work
 - E.g. Dartmouth Spine Center tablets, web templates
 - Careful privacy controls

Long Term Tracking

- Develop a practical patient tracking system to follow patients over extended time periods
 - Web based surveys, follow-up visit information, ties to other data sets (e.g. sick days, social security (deaths)), phone and email contact with patient and/or referring physician
 - An EMR with secure patient communication will significantly reduce cost/boost coverage

Auditing

 Create an auditing system to eliminate clerical and other errors, as well as to test the objectivity of qualitative scoring and judgments

Creating an Outcome Measurement System 3. Compiling and Analyzing Outcomes

- Track all outcomes for every patient
- Ideally outcome measurement is used on line in the care process
- Create reports which compile measures for patient cohorts over time

Utilizing Outcome Information Internally

- Convene regular meetings to analyze variations and trends
 - Over time
 - Stratified by patient types
 - Across providers or locations
 - Etc.
- Create a blame free environment to allow open discussion of results with no repercussions for participants willing to make constructive changes and improve
- Utilize outcome learning to investigate processes, potential care innovations, and other improvement approaches
- Utilize the outcomes hierarchy data to extend and deepen clinical research

Measurement Improvement

 Refine the measures, collection methods, and risk adjustment factors over time

Creating an Outcome Measurement System <u>4. Reporting</u>

Reporting Choices

- Mean/median only, or full variation
- Overall mean/median versus individual providers
- Degree of stratification/risk adjustment

Reporting Levels

- Internal Outcome Reporting
 - Comparison to history, trends over time
 - Variations across patients, teams, sites, and individual providers
 - Providers identified or blinded
 - Outcome reporting to Referring Providers
 - Outcome reporting to Health Plans
 - Outcome reporting to Patients



- Phasing in outcome reporting builds confidence and credibility
- Add a time delay to allow correction of errors
- Ultimately, wide reporting will maximize value improvement

Outcome Measurement System Schön Kliniken

- Schön Kliniken is the seventh largest hospital system in Germany with 15 hospitals focusing on orthopedics, neurology and psychosomatic conditions
- Began tracking health outcomes in 1996
 - Captures health status achieved and process of recovery
 - Few, if any, long-term health outcomes
 - Focused on acute care
- Developed measures by convening groups of relevant physicians and members of Schön's quality improvement team
 - Currently tracks five metrics per medical condition
- Mandates reporting of all metrics for all physician groups
- Physicians and nurses enter data during each patient's stay, and data can be extracted from the EMR
- Captures outcome data for 70% of patients
- Reports results internally at the individual physician level
- Validates accuracy through trend analysis
 - Links physician pay to quality of care delivered
- Annual publically available quality report includes 27 process and outcome measures

Cost Measurement Realities

- Most providers track charges not costs
 - High revenue services can be over allocated cost further accentuating the internal cross subsidy
- Most providers track cost by billing category, not for medical conditions
- Most providers cannot accumulate total costs over the care cycle for particular patients
 - Hospital costs and physician costs are separated
 - Systems do not facilitate simple aggregation for one patient across settings
- Most providers use arbitrary or average allocations of costs categories, not patient specific allocations
 - Often based on Medicare RVU reimbursement system
 - Outdated/ not easily updated
 - Not specific to any one provider
 - Flawed rationale misattributes cost (i.e. Physician's time costs more in the office or doing paperwork)



Payers are not confident in the providers ability to understand cost

Cost Measurement Principles

- Cost should be aggregated at the medical condition level (which includes common co-occurring conditions), not for services or entire facilities
- Cost should be aggregated for each patient across the full cycle of care
- The cost of each activity or input attributed to a patient should reflect that
 patient's use of resources (e.g. time, staff, facilities, service), not average
 allocations or allocations based on charges
- The only way to properly measure cost per patient is to track the time or shared resource capacity devoted to each patient by providers, facilities, support services, and other shared costs



- Time-Driven Activity Based Costing
 - Chart the CDVC
 - Assess capacity cost of each shared resource involved in the care process
 - Assess actual capacity use in transactions with each patient
 - Enable aggregation by patient, by medical condition, etc.

Creating a Cost Measurement System

- Begin around one or a small number of medical conditions with a plan to ultimately scale the methodology across the organization
- Establish a cost measurement team including representatives from the relevant medical condition care team and staff from accounting/finance and IT
 - A project leader/champion should be designated to bring the costing system to other areas of the organization
- Create a separate cost analysis system drawing data from the existing financial system, but keep the financial system intact
- Use an iterative process to refine the analysis
 - No need to encompass full complexity on the first try
 - Costing is refined with use and testing
 - Actual degree of variation across patients will determine where average capacity use can be utilized versus direct tracking and observation for individual patients

Cost Measurement System

- Cost measurement should be accompanied by outcome measurement
- Bringing costs and outcomes together will reveal inefficiencies and opportunities for reallocating resource use
 - E.g. High cost activities which do not correspond to superior outcomes
 - Identify low cost activities delivering high value
- Knowledge of costs and outcomes together creates a different dynamic in reimbursement discussions
 - Understanding true costs for a medical condition is essential to constructing bundled payments
 - Better align objective charges and actual cost
 - Objective cost has been a missing link in debates about appropriate charges
 - Cost data is essential to justify the value of services being provided