

Enhancing Value in European Health Systems

Improving Outcomes



Health system challenges: why we need to act

- **Ageing populations:** the EU28 old age dependency ratio (people aged 65 and above relative to those aged 15-64) is projected to increase from 28% in 2013 to 39% in 2030
- **Variations in health outcomes:** both health care outcomes and public health outcomes – between and within EU Member States. For example:
 - **Infant mortality** (2012): ranges from below 3 deaths per 1000 live births in several countries, to 9 deaths per 1000 live births in the lowest performer
 - 30 day case mortality after **heart attack** (2011): 3% in the best performing EU country; 14% and above in some others
 - Within UK (2009/10): 3.5 fold variation between Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in mortality (per population) within 30 days of admission for **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease** (COPD)
- Too much focus on processes over individuals: the need to make health care **patient-centred**
- **Significant public health challenges:** e.g. rising obesity levels and diabetes prevalence

The benefits of health outcomes measurement

- Outcome measures are a multi-purpose tool to improve the **performance of health systems**, enabling **value for money** and better resource allocation, and contributing to **sustainability**
- **Health Care** outcomes measurement should be used for:
 - **Continuous improvement:** Clinical teams measuring outcomes and using the data to inform care, identify and end ineffective interventions, and improve patient care and outcomes
 - **Performance assessment:** comparisons of outcomes at different levels (e.g. provider, regional, country) to identify best practices and policies for improvement, as well as target setting
 - **Patient-centredness and patient empowerment:** using patient-reported outcome measures to capture the patient perspective, and involve patients in health care decision making
- **Public Health** outcome measurement should be used for:
 - **Tailoring policies and interventions to local needs:** through a better understanding of outcomes within defined geographies and population sub-groups
 - **Strengthening follow up and evaluation of interventions:** using outcome measures to assess the effectiveness of past policies and interventions
 - **Enhancing accountability:** of public health policy through transparency of outcomes data
- Focusing on outcomes provides meaningful objectives around which actors in the health system can collaborate and coordinate care – with benefits for patients, the health system and society

Call to action

- The Value of Health multi-stakeholder consensus document calls for policy makers to:
 - Embrace outcomes measurement to drive health system improvement and sustainability
 - Develop and use health systems performance assessment (HSPA) frameworks that measure outcomes as a core component
 - Ensure that health information systems and technology tools enable efficient data collection