

## OUR WORK AND VISION: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement, or ICHOM ([www.ichom.org](http://www.ichom.org)), was founded in 2012 by Professor Michael E. Porter of Harvard Business School, Martin Ingvar of the Karolinska Institute and the Boston Consulting Group. ICHOM's mission is to unlock the potential of defining global Standard Sets of outcome measures that matter to patients for the most relevant medical conditions and by driving adoption and reporting of these measures worldwide. Since the founding of our organization, we have developed 12 Standard Sets, covering more than one-third of the global burden of disease. By 2017, we aim to have completed Standard Sets covering more than half of the disease burden in advanced economies.

### Health care in a value-based world

We believe that health care should be based on *value*: the outcomes that patients experience relative to the cost of delivering those outcomes. Restructuring care-delivery around outcomes, and promoting superior outcomes with financial incentives, health care systems will improve quality and curb inefficiencies. This will benefit every stakeholder across the health care spectrum.

In a value-based world,

- **patients** are able to choose providers based on informed expectations of outcomes and the associated costs;
- **providers** that deliver superior outcomes at competitive costs thrive, while others improve or lose their position;
- **payers** negotiate contracts based on results and encourage innovation to achieve those results;
- **suppliers** succeed by marketing their products on value, showing improved patient outcomes relative to costs.

### Outcomes measurement is the key to unlocking value

Although these goals are widely shared, systems have been unable to achieve them. Even as costs skyrocket and wide variation in outcomes across hospitals and countries persist, the value agenda is stalled. The critical missing piece is outcomes measurement. Clinicians today gather more data than ever before, but what we are measuring often has little relationship to *outcomes*: the results of care that matter most to patients. How soon after treatment can a patient with low-back pain expect to return to work? How likely is a man to experience incontinence or sexual dysfunction after treatment for localized prostate cancer? Will a patient diagnosed with macular degeneration today be able to read normally one year, two years, or five years from now? These are questions about outcomes, and answering them is the key to driving value. As **Patrick Conway**, the Chief Medical Officer at the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, noted at the Third Annual ICHOM Conference in 2014, "It's all about accelerating improvement. As we focus on outcomes, we'll get better...care for patients at lower cost."

### The how: ICHOM's strategic agenda

ICHOM's goal is to jumpstart the value transition by enabling outcomes measurement. Our work begins by forming condition-specific Working Groups. Comprised of physicians, registry leaders, outcomes experts, and patient representatives, ICHOM Working Groups define minimum Standard Sets of outcomes, along with case-mix factors to support risk-adjustment and meaningful comparison. Working Group members participate on a purely voluntary basis; to date, more than 300 individuals from 28 countries have contributed. The standardization process requires 6-8 months and is driven by an ICHOM project team. All ICHOM Standard Sets and accompanying Reference Guides are freely available for download on our website.

The second phase of our work is facilitating implementation. We work closely with providers and others around the world to advance awareness of our Standard Sets, spur development of data-collection technologies, align registries, and support pilot implementers. In the long term, we aim to drive value by enabling international collaboration among providers and engaging payers and governments to promote adoption and outcomes transparency through financial incentives and/or reporting requirements. In time, providing risk-adjusted international benchmarks on both outcomes and resource-requirements at the medical condition level will help us achieve these objectives. Publishing value-rankings based on outcomes and price-transparency will also support the value agenda.

### ICHOM is gaining the support of leading organizations

ICHOM is gaining the support of leading organizations around the world. Our sponsoring partners include medical centers, patient-advocacy organizations, and payers, and the number of organizations measuring one or more of the Standard Sets continues to rise. Approximately 60 organizations are already measuring or intend to measure ICHOM Standard Sets, and more than 40 other institutions have expressed interest in doing so. In 2015, ICHOM formed Strategic Alliances with Aneurin Bevan Health Board in the UK, Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, the Agency for Clinical Innovation in Australia, the multinational provider Ramsay Health Care, and the Santeon hospital group in the Netherlands. These organizations have pledged long-term collaboration and will be leaders among the growing number of organizations implementing the Standard Sets.

Interest from key government officials further indicates ICHOM's momentum. At the Third Annual ICHOM Conference, **Edith Schippers**, the Minister of Health in the Netherlands, named 2015 the "Year of Transparency" in Dutch health care, announcing, "ICHOM can be a major facilitator for this change." The Scottish Government fully funded our Working Group on Dementia and, even more recently, ICHOM has been invited to take part in key EU-wide discussions on quality measurement. More than ever, the ICHOM team is confident that our work will help reshape health care around the world.

### Further information

#### ICHOM publications

- [Aligning Payers and Providers Around Value: Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Michigan's Collaborative Quality Initiatives](#) (June 2015)
- [Stanford Health Care: A Seamless Outcomes Data Capture Solution](#) (November 2014)
- [What Matters Most: Patient Outcomes and the Transformation of Health Care](#) (November 2014)

#### More about value-based health care and outcomes measurement

##### *Harvard Business Review*

- Porter, M. Lee, T. The strategy that will fix health care. Accessible [here](#).
- Porter, M. Kaplan, B. How to solve the health care cost crisis. Accessible [here](#).
- Stowell, C. Akerman, C. Better value in health care requires focusing on outcomes. Accessible [here](#).
- Lippa, J. Pinnock, C. Aisenbrey, J. What Health Care Leaders Need to Do to Improve Value for Patients. Accessible [here](#).

##### *New England Journal of Medicine*

- Porter, M. What is Value in Health Care? Accessible [here](#).
- Porter, M. Lee, T. Why strategy matters now. Accessible [here](#).

#### Videos

- [Measured Outcomes: A Future View on Value-Based Healthcare](#) (September 2015)
- Presenters at the 2014 ICHOM Conference included Patrick Conway of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Dutch Health Minister Edith Schippers, and ICHOM cofounder Michael E. Porter. [Click here to watch these and other presentations.](#)

#### Key webpages

- By 2017, we aim to have published Standard Sets covering more than 50-percent of the global disease burden. [Click here for an overview of our progress.](#)
- Our Certified Suppliers are IT solution-providers that have integrated the Standard Sets into their software platforms. [Click here to meet our Certified Suppliers.](#)
- Great impact comes from great support. For information about our Strategic Partners and Sponsoring Partners, [click here](#).
- Looking for more information? We update [our FAQ page](#) regularly.

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