

# For immediate release:

## **International Experts Launch a Foundational Set of Standards to Measure and Improve Health and Care for Overall Adult Health Globally**

BOSTON, Massachusetts, March 26, 2020: The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) announced the release of their Overall Adult Health Standard Set today.

Leading researchers, practitioners, and service user representatives from across Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Australia have joined forces to establish and launch the first international standard for measuring treatment outcomes for overall health of adults over the age of 18. This marks an important step towards promoting data quality and availability and strengthening overall adult care.

This collaboration was facilitated by ICHOM and made possible by the generous contributions of NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation, Australia; NHS Wales; HCF Research Foundation, Australia; Providence Health Care, USA.

Patient Advisor and Working Group Member Carolyn Canfield says “A person’s sense of their overall health is not a compilation of biomedical test results, but rather one’s reflection on meeting the demands of everyday life. Our task over many months has been to identify measures for practical self-reporting that convey wellness and illness, capacity and disability, satisfaction and distress that all hold meaning for most adults in most circumstances and locations. I am pleased that vigorous participation with my fellow patient partners and health professional colleagues has resulted in a Standard Set that describes a person’s *health as lived*, as an alternative to system-centric metrics on disease and treatment. My hope is that enthusiasm for taking up measurement and analysis of self-assessed overall health as experienced by adult populations will spur accountability and action on environmental and social determinants of health inequity at every scale.”

### **The ICHOM Working Group**

The Overall Adult Health Standard Set (OAHSS) was developed by a dedicated ICHOM Working Group, comprised of 23 international experts and service user representatives, from 13 countries. A full list of organizations and representatives involved in this Working Group is available [here](#).

### **The Overall Adult Health Standard Set**

The OAHSS makes a set of recommendations for how treatment outcomes should be measured in clinical practice. It recommends measuring fifteen health outcomes across the four broad domains of Overall Health, Physical Health, Mental Health and Social Health, as a minimum, for all adults. For this purpose, it recommends a set of patient- and clinician-reported outcome measures. To help ensure the Standard Set is relevant across different intervention contexts, the Working Group also recommends thirteen risk adjustment factors, to be collected along with the outcomes, as well as timepoints for measurement.

Measuring, reporting, and comparing these outcomes can help identify best practices in overall adult health; ultimately generating value and better outcomes for service users. The selected outcome

measures being available in several languages, the Standard Set is assured to have increased adoption across countries.

An open-source [Reference Guide](#) is available that outlines recommendations for administering the set, time points, and a data dictionary for organizations to begin implementation.

### **Consumer Review Period**

The Working Group's recommendations were validated during an Open Review period, in a large group of external stakeholders from around the world. In this review, 90% of patients (i.e., adults with experience of service use) reported that the outcome measures were important to be part of routine care and support. Over 80% of healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers surveyed across 25 countries, approved of the outcomes and measures recommended.

### **The Future of OAHSS**

From its inception, ICHOM has made Standard Sets open source. Now that this recommendation is finalised, the real work can begin, ushering in a new season for value based overall adult health care. It will be invaluable to learn from implementation pilots that may emerge across the globe and inform future iterations of this global set of standards.

The Chair of the Working Group, Professor Jose M Valderas of University of Exeter says, "The Overall Adult Health Standard Set marks a milestone in the value based healthcare approach. It makes it possible to monitor the overall health of any adult individual regardless of the health status and the services involved in their care. It is the first one truly appropriate for primary and preventive care thereby being applicable to the widest range of individuals of the all the available sets. At the same time is an essential tool for those individuals with multiple health conditions serving as a compass to help navigate the multiplicity of condition specific outcomes. We are all indebted to an outstanding panel of experts who have demonstrated the expertise and commitment well beyond the original terms of engagement throughout this long journey. And on a personal note it has been a true privilege to serve as chair of this Working Group. I am really excited about the next step, namely the implementation of this set."

For more information on the OAHSS, the standard set flyer can be downloaded [here](#) and the reference guide [here](#).

More Information on The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement:

*ICHOM's mission is to unlock the potential of value-based health care by defining global standard sets of outcome measures that matter most to patients and driving adoption and reporting of these measures worldwide to create better value for all stakeholders. ICHOM was founded in 2012 by Professor Michael E. Porter of Harvard Business School, the Boston Consulting Group, and Karolinska Institute.*

Visit [www.ichom.org](http://www.ichom.org) or contact [info@ichom.org](mailto:info@ichom.org) for more details.