

For immediate release:

International Experts Launch a Foundational Set of Standards to Measure and Improve Health and Care for Hand and Wrist Conditions Globally

BOSTON, Massachusetts, August 12th, 2020: The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) announced the release of their Hand and Wrist Conditions Set today.

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

This collaboration was facilitated by ICHOM and made possible by the generous contributions of Xpert Clinic, The Netherlands; Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand; The British Society for Surgery of the Hand, United Kingdom; The Australian Hand Surgery Society, Australia; Nederlandse Vereniging Voor Handtherapie, The Netherlands; Nederlandse Vereniging voor Handchirurgie, The Netherlands; International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand.

Working Group Member Dr Maurizio Calcagni says “In many domains of our life, globalization, commercial competition and capitalism are under a raising pressure. Profit maximization and costs reduction are a mantra that is repeated in board of directors of all kind of companies, often driving the attention away from the true interests of the customers. The health care providers are not different. The only difference is that quality plays a more prominent role. Outcome measurements, especially the patient reported ones (PROMs), are the most important parameter to assess the quality of treatments and eventually to measure their value for the patients. To build an internationally accepted standard set for hand and wrist conditions is an endeavor that will foster new developments in value-based care strategies in the interest of our patients. It was a great experience and honor to contribute to this new tool dedicated to one of the most important structures of the human body.”

The ICHOM Working Group

The Hand & Wrist Conditions Standard Set (HWRSS) was developed by a dedicated ICHOM Working Group, comprised of 18 international experts and service user representatives, from 11 countries. A full list of organizations and representatives involved in this Working Group is available [here](#).

The Hand & Wrist Conditions Standard Set

The HWRSS makes a set of recommendations for how treatment outcomes should be measured in clinical practice. It recommends measuring fourteen health outcomes and there five tracks which are Finger Track, Wrist Track, Thumb Track, Nerve Track and Severe Trauma Track 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 eleven 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, an average of 85% of patients (i.e., adults with experience of hand & wrist conditions) reported that the outcome measures were important to be part of routine care and support in all five tracks. Over 85% of healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers surveyed across 27 countries, approved of the outcomes and measures recommended.

The Future of HWRSS

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 hand & wrist conditions 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 Steven Hovius of Xpert Clinic says, "In the past decennia an increasing interest has been developed concerning personalized medicine. From 'Trust me I am the doctor' to 'Trust me I have the data' it is currently becoming more a 'Shared decision between patient and health care professional'. But do we have the data? Are they comparable over the globe for the same conditions?

Do we really know what patients want? Can we select the best option for the individual patient? In trying to achieve this globally, an international working group with 20 members coming from 4 continents together with four professionals of ICHOM has set together a minimal core set of questionnaires for patients (PROM's; patient reported outcome measurements) together with clinician reported outcome measurements (CROM's). Questionnaires and measurements were chosen on the basis of being as much as possible evidence based, internationally available for low or no costs and not too cumbersome to perform. Pathologies were categorized into five main tracks. Follow-up has been set at clear time points. Last but not least the patient's surveys and professional surveys were used as control of our work. Following nearly three years of hard work we really hope this core set will be used globally so patients can benefit from the outcomes provided during their treatment and also future patients will know better what they can expect."

For more information on the HWRSS, 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 or contact info@ichom.org for more details.