

For immediate release:

**International Experts Launch a Foundational Set of Standards
to Measure and Improve COVID-19 Health Globally**

BOSTON, Massachusetts, October, 12, 2020: The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) announced the release of their COVID-19 Standard Set (C19-SS) today.

In order to help institutions worldwide provide the best care for patients with COVID-19, health professionals, patient advisors, and recognized leaders from across Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia have joined forces to establish and launch a global set of outcomes and measurement recommendations that reflect what matters most to patients with COVID-19. This collaboration is facilitated by ICHOM and conducted *pro bono publico* to assist in aiding the global healthcare community fight the global pandemic. Owing to the pressing need for this kind of work, this set was convened and created within an expedited timeline in order to begin the tracking of outcomes for COVID-19 patients.

From its inception, ICHOM has made standard sets open source. Now that this recommendation is finalized, the real work can begin to track the outcomes that matter most to patients with COVID-19 and use the data to inform quality improvement across services worldwide. This is particularly important as we enter the second wave of the pandemic, with infection rates far above those expected. 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, Kees Brinkman, MD, PhD, OLVG Hospital (Santeon) says, "Looking back on the trajectory, I was impressed by the fast and efficient way an international working group, that did not know each other, was able to construct a broad and meaningful set of parameters for a rapidly spreading new viral illness. With excellent support from the ICHOM team, we hope this outcome set will represent the most important end results of care, that are important for patients with COVID-19 and that can be influenced by improvements in the care process. Since this is a new disease, it is important to evaluate the outcomes among clinical settings all over the world, to recognize the best practices available."

The COVID-19 Working Group

The C19-SS was developed by the ICHOM COVID-19 Working Group, comprised of 28 international experts and patient representatives, from 24 organizations across 14 countries. It was led by a project team consisting of Kees Brinkman of OLVG Amsterdam, Working Group Chair; William Seligman of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Research Fellow; Luz Fialho, Project Director; Nick Sillett, Project Manager and Christina Nielsen, Research Associate. A full list of organizations and representatives involved in the ICHOM COVID-19 Working Group is available [here](#).

Patient Advisor and C19 Working Group Member Phil Collis, National Institute for Health Research, United Kingdom shares: "As a COVID patient, I think it important that patient perspective has been

included in the development of the standards. Participating in the workgroups has been a very positive experience, offering the opportunity to have some influence in the process, of what is important to patients in achieving 'best recovery and outcomes' in contributing to the challenges that the COVID virus presents to us"

The COVID-19 Standard Set

The C19-SS is a minimum core set of standards, comprised of Patient and Clinician - Reported Outcome Measures recommended to be collected across primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare settings. This recommendation has been designed to track the recovery of patients suffering from COVID-19 over a three-month period following their admission. To account for patients who are yet to fully recover during this initial period, the set can be extended for a further three months at the discretion of the physician. The set measures 13 outcomes under the biopsychosocial framework for comprehensive outcomes measurement. These overarching domains are Social Functioning, Mental Functioning, Functional Status and Quality of Life, Symptoms, and Clinical Outcomes.

To help ensure the Standard Set is relevant across contexts, the Working Group also recommended a series of 8 case-mix, risk adjustment factors, to be collected along with the outcomes measured. These cover demographic, clinical and treatment-related factors to ensure that patient populations can be compared between settings.

With the chosen measures available in several languages, the standard set is slated to have increased adoption across countries.

An open-source [Reference Guide](#) has also been created, outlining recommendations for administering the set, time points, and a data dictionary for organizations to begin implementation.

Standard Set Patient Feedback:

Prior to convening the Working Group, COVID-19 patients from around the world were contacted with a survey made available in English, Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish. This was to ensure the set remained patient-centered and to gather feedback on the outcomes that COVID-19 patients felt were most important to them. The respondents were asked to rate the importance of a series of outcomes and, if they felt the list wasn't complete, were given the opportunity to suggest any others they felt were missing. The outcomes presented to, and those subsequently suggested by, the patient group provided the basis for the initial discussions with the Working Group on which should be tracked as part of the set.

The standard set was therefore developed coupling the latest scientific knowledge from healthcare professionals and personal input from patients, ensuring the outcomes that matter most to them were placed as the central focus. This will provide a comprehensive, quantifiable view of a patient's health which will allow institutions across the world to accurately assess and deliver the best care possible to those affected by COVID-19.

For more information on the C19-SS, 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.

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