

# For immediate release:

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

BOSTON, Massachusetts, October 30, 2020: The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) announced the release of their Adult Oral 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 oral health in adults over the age of 18. This marks an important step towards promoting data quality and availability and strengthening adult oral health care.

This collaboration was facilitated by ICHOM and developed in partnership with FDI World Dental Federation. It was made possible by the generous contributions of HCF Research Foundation, Australia; Dental Health Services Victoria, Australia; Harvard School of Dental Medicine Initiative, United States.

### **The ICHOM Working Group**

The Adult Oral Health Standard Set (ORASS) was developed by a dedicated ICHOM Working Group, comprised of 18 international experts and service user representatives, from 8 countries. A full list of organizations and representatives involved in this Working Group is available [here](#).

### **The Adult Oral Health Standard Set**

The ORAHSS makes a set of recommendations for how treatment outcomes should be measured in clinical practice. It recommends measuring seventeen health outcomes across the three broad domains of Physiological Function and Psychosocial Status, Symptoms and Caries and Periodontal disease, 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 fourteen 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 adult oral health; ultimately generating value and better outcomes for patients. 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, 87% of patients (i.e., adults' patients in oral health) reported that the outcome measures were important to be part of routine care and would want their dentists to routinely measure these questions. 82% of respondents of the Open

Review survey (healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers) surveyed across 87 countries would like to implement the set in their local settings.

### **The Future of ORASS**

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 adult oral 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 co-chairs of the Working Group, Professor Michael Glick from University at Buffalo and Professor David Williams from Bart's and The London, School of Medicine and Dentistry remark that , "As Chairs of the Working Group, we would like to extent our sincere gratitude to all the Oral Health Working Group members for the tremendous work and insights that enabled the AOHSS to come to fruition. The need to be able to measure oral health in a universally adopted manner has never been more important. The AOHSS will enhance our understanding of how oral health is perceived and communicated--by both health care providers and patients--which is an essential part for a person-centered care approach, and its utilization will shine a light on the dire need to improve oral health globally."

For more information on the ORASS, 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.