

## **SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR CLINICAL INDICATORS: CONCEPTS, TERMINOLOGY, PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY**

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This presentation focus on the scientific basis for indicator measurement and monitoring. Monitoring health care quality is impossible without the use of clinical indicators. Various audiences may wish to use them to document the quality of care, make comparisons (benchmarking), make judgments and priorities, support accountability, support quality improvement and provide transparency in health care.

It is imperative that clinical indicators are meaningful, scientifically sound, generalizable and interpretable. To achieve this, clinical indicators must be developed, tested and implemented with scientific rigor.

In this presentation clinical indicators in terms of performance and outcome measures will be defined. The need for exhaustive and exclusive definitions will be illustrated.

The different steps required to develop, test and implement clinical indicators will be presented and discussed and specific examples of how they apply to clinical indicators for different diseases will be provided to make the concepts more concrete and illustrate some of the choices faced by developers of clinical indicators.

The importance of developing evidence based clinical indicators will be illustrated. Testing the scientific strength of clinical indicators, i.e. evaluating its reliability and validity will be discussed.

The perspective is that the development and implementation of clinical indicators are rigorously developed and will provide insights into opportunities to improve the quality of care.