



CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH BRIEF

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IU CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY RESEARCHERS CREATE BLUEPRINT FOR INTEGRATING PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES INTO RESEARCH SYSTEMS

Dr. Chris Harle, of the Indiana University Center for Health Policy, found that allowing patients to directly report on their health status can help healthcare providers deliver evidence-based treatment that also reflects a patient's preferences and values. When patients self-report on their health, quality of life, function, symptoms or other care experiences, healthcare providers gain access to health-related information that would otherwise go unnoticed and undocumented. Incorporating self-reported outcomes into patients' existing clinical records paints a full picture of their patient's health.

A key to increasing scientific discovery in healthcare is to provide these more inclusive stories to researchers. How? By including patient-reported outcomes (PROs) in everyday clinical processes and information systems.

WHAT CHALLENGE DOES THE RESEARCH ADDRESS?

Not enough health organizations know how to effectively use PRO systems to support research and care delivery. With this in mind, Dr. Harle, designed and implemented electronic PROs for use within an academic health center.

In a case study to describe the lessons learned from incorporating electronic PROs within an academic health center, the following system functions were (and are currently being) utilized successfully:

1. Collecting PRO data electronically at the point of care (via tablet/computer).
2. Integrating PRO data with other clinical data (i.e. demographics, medications, diagnoses, etc.).
3. Disseminating all data (clinical and PRO).

Enhancing the scale and on-going use of Patient-Reported Outcomes may help providers capture a fuller picture of patients' health, and lead to more evidence-based treatment.

IS THERE EVIDENCE THAT IT WORKS?

System Function: Collecting electronic PRO data during clinical care

- Healthcare practices have either adopted the system or are reviewing the system for adoption.
- Automating identification of patients qualified to complete PROs reduced concerns about workflow.
- Patients completed the PROs typically in less than 10 minutes, and 84 percent said they were comfortable reporting the info on a tablet/computer.

System Function: Integrating PRO data with existing clinical data

- Due to seamless system integration, PROs can become a standard part of regular data loads.

System Function: Disseminating all data

- PRO data are actively acquired, indicating overall system feasibility.

To read the full study, visit go.iu.edu/21Jj.

Harle CA, Lipori G, and Hurley RW. "Collecting, Integrating, and Disseminating Patient-Reported Outcomes for Research in a Learning Healthcare System." *The Journal for Electronic Health Data and Methods (EGEMS)*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2016.

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Center for Health Policy researchers are available to conduct studies. Contact Dr. Joshua Vest for more information.