Healthy measures

Making sense of patient data – to upgrade Europe's health systems

Europe's health systems are overstretched – but a revolution in health data can solve that. The Science|Business Healthy Measures group aims to make that happen faster, producing better outcomes for patients everywhere.

The problem

Healthcare budgets are strained everywhere, and rising about 3% a year as populations age and chronic diseases multiply. But money doesn't necessarily buy good care: The variation in patient outcomes is huge across Europe, for no obvious reasons.

If you are in Sweden, you have an 8.5% chance of dying after an acute myocardial infarction; in Hungary, it's 18.8%, according to the OECD. Inside Germany, your odds of needing a second operation after hip replacement varies 18-fold from one region to another. Clearly, something is wrong with the way we manage healthcare.

The solution

We can get a lot smarter in the way we run our health systems. Patient records, outcome measures, Big Data analytics, Artificial Intelligence, health apps and other fast-emerging tools can make a real difference in the way health systems operate. With them, administrators can analyse which procedures, medicines and equipment work best; what training and management techniques get the most out of staff; which policies – in-country and across borders – are most effective. Resources can go where they produce the best outcomes for patients. The cost of illness to society can fall. Health services can become fairer across Europe, with equal outcomes targeted whatever the patient's ailment or location. In short, better use of health data is good for the economy and the society.

Health inequalities: How better use of health data can improve outcomes for all patients
A Healthy Measures report

The challenge: How to make these benefits real, today?

The members of the Science|Business Healthy Measures group are taking up that challenge. Working together, 16 public and private-sector organisations around Europe are gathering experts, studying best practice and pushing for faster action across the EU. Since 2016, the group has been organising conferences across Europe – Paris, London, Lyon, Helsinki, Tallinn, Brussels, Vienna - gathering experts to compare notes, best practice and policy ideas. It has been preparing white papers and reports analysing the problems. And it has been building, across the EU, a growing network of experts in healthcare administration who know and act on these new methods. In short, the group was formed to catalyse action across EU health systems, to scale up digital health from pilot to deployment, to produce better outcomes for patients everywhere.

Issued addressed include how to:

- gather patient data more effectively, without loss of security or privacy
- use health apps to improve public health databases, and patient compliance and care
- get, and manage, patient-reported outcome data – and then act on it
- organise hospitals and clinics, to feed the results of data analysis back into daily practice
- set up cross-border health and e-prescription services, quickly and effectively
- train nurses, doctors and other professionals to make best use of health data methods
- use EU-level analysis of outcomes data, to improve healthcare and reduce inequalities
- create integrated health systems involving all actors of the health ecosystem

Our objective: To move this issue from talk to action, from debate to decision. And to make healthcare in Europe more effective, efficient and fair.

Programme for 2018 and 2019

- Conferences in Brussels, Vienna, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Helsinki.
- Reports on best practice in patient outcomes, medical education, data-system implementation, prevention, integrated care
- High level networking opportunities across Europe

Clemens Auer, Director General, Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection

Xavier Prats Monné, Director General DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission and Signe Ratso, Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Who we are

The group comprises 16 public and private sector organisations, managed by a Steering Committee of the members (with the OECD and European Commission as official observers.)

Aalto University	Karolinska Institutet
Amgen	Novartis
Barcelona Supercomputing Center	NTNU
Business Finland	Politecnico di Milano
ESADE	Simmons & Simmons LLP
GE	Sorbonne University
Hospital Sant Joan de Déu (Barcelona)	Trimbos Institute
ICHOM - International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement	Warwick Medical School

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