



Information Sheet

PROMs Overview

PROMs are measurement instruments completed by patients to obtain information on aspects of their health status that are relevant to their quality of life, including symptoms, functionality, and physical, mental and social health.

Many PROMs instruments are available. PROMs tools are categorized as generic (applied across different populations) or condition-specific (used to assess outcomes that are characteristic of or unique to particular diseases or sectors of care). Typically, generic and condition-specific instruments are administered concurrently, as they provide complementary information.

Questions

For additional information on PROMs and PROMs initiatives at CIHI, contact us at proms@cihi.ca.

Patient-Reported Outcome Measures

Benefits of PROMs Across Canada

Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) are increasingly recognized as valuable and essential information for achieving health system goals. In response, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is working with a broad range of stakeholders to advance a common approach to PROMs across Canada.

In 2013–2014, CIHI conducted an environmental scan of the Canadian and international PROMs landscape. Some countries, such as the United Kingdom, have implemented PROMs programs to evaluate outcomes for targeted interventions. In Canada, while some regional-level PROMs initiatives exist, we are lacking a coordinated pan-Canadian program to routinely collect and report PROMs to better support health and health system performance improvements.

Why PROMs Are Important

- As illustrated in CIHI's Health System Performance Measurement Framework, information from the patient's perspective is essential to support a patient-centred approach to care.
- PROMs provide insight on the effectiveness of care from the patient's perspective. PROMs are required to understand whether health care services and procedures make a difference to patients' health status and quality of life.
- PROMs can be used to inform clinical practices, health services programming, planning and policies, performance measurement, comparative effectiveness analysis and quality improvement initiatives.
- PROMs can be linked in a privacy-appropriate manner to other data sources — such as clinical and administrative data, as well as patient-reported experience measures (PREMs) collected in CIHI's Canadian Patient Experiences Reporting System (CPERS) — to enrich existing information and better inform decisions.

Benefits of a Common Approach

A common approach to collecting and reporting PROMs data is more cost-effective and timely, and provides much more comparable data (regionally, nationally and internationally) with which to drive health system enhancements.

CIHI PROMs Forum

In February 2015, CIHI hosted a pan-Canadian PROMs Forum to advance the development of PROMs information across Canada. Participants included senior policy-makers from federal/provincial/territorial governments, senior health system decision-makers, international guests, and selected clinicians and senior researchers actively involved in PROMs. This event provided an opportunity for Canadian health leaders to discuss PROMs and explore considerations and opportunities for standardizing PROMs data collection and reporting across Canada.

Discussions at the CIHI PROMs Forum confirmed interest in advancing a common approach to PROMs across Canada. Participants acknowledged the importance of PROMs data, the need for standardized and comparable PROMs information and a desire for CIHI to provide leadership and guide the development of a pan-Canadian approach to PROMs.

Next Steps

CIHI will continue to support the advancement of PROMs use in Canada. Next steps include the following:

- **Launching a PROMs leadership group**, such as a pan-Canadian PROMs advisory committee, to support collaboration and the development of work plans for advancing the use of PROMs in Canada.
- **Recommending generic and condition-specific PROMs tools for use across Canada**, recognizing the value of supporting local needs as well as regional and international comparisons.
- **Launching and expanding PROMs demonstration projects** in areas where PROMs use is supported by the clinical community and where the value of PROMs can be illustrated. Initial projects will focus on hip and knee replacements and renal care.
- **Exploring opportunities to leverage existing infrastructure and initiatives to advance PROMs**, such as the potential of submitting PROMs data to CIHI's existing data holdings, including clinical registries as well as acute and ambulatory care databases like the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) and the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS).