

TIPS FOR MEASURING OUTCOMES

1. Fully investigate what is already available as to develop new measures is time consuming and expensive.
2. Refer to professional groups e.g. CSP, OT etc.
3. Refer to special interest groups.
4. Ensure measures are research based or seek advice from someone who has an in depth knowledge of the outcomes agenda and evidence base.
5. Ensure the outcome measure is valid and responsive.
6. The measurement of a true outcome demonstrates that change has occurred due to the intervention - remember that there are many factors that can confound the measurement of a true outcome.

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*There is a web site with a useful
training package :*

www.hop.man.ac.uk/academic/

nursingmidwifery1/Online-Training/

Clin-Effect/Clinical-Effectiveness-home.htm

Hope Hospital will operate a smoke-free policy from March 2004. To find out what this means for you, pick up the leaflet available at the hospital. For advice on stopping smoking contact 0161 212 2050.



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Development
Team**

What is an Outcome ?

Salford Royal Hospitals 
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WHAT IS AN OUTCOME ?

Outcomes are the results (effects) of a process (Outcomes briefing 1993, Issue 1).

In health care we are considering the effects on health of a specific process or processes.

The aspects of outcome that are most commonly investigated are :

1. Changes in life expectancy
2. Quality of life
3. Changes in functional or physical ability
4. Satisfaction

WHY MEASURE OUTCOMES ?

Health outcomes have been identified as one of the six key elements of measuring performance in the NHS (Performance Assessment Frameworks). Performance is a key indicator of quality and therefore the measurement of outcomes can be used as a way of monitoring and improving quality. This in turn links to clinical governance since services are striving to demonstrate that they are providing an effective service and seeking to improve quality.

TYPES OF OUTCOME MEASURES

Therapeutic outcome measures :-

These consider changes in health status following an intervention.

Outcome measures may be uni or multi-professional.

Quality of Life Measures can measure :-

1. Pain
2. Functional status
3. Impairment
4. Disability
5. Mental status

Condition Specific Measures e.g.

1. Barthel
2. Elderly mobility Scale

Individualised Outcome Measures e.g.

1. The Binary individualised outcome measure
2. TELER
3. Goal attainment scaling

Generic Outcome Measures e.g.

1. MYMOP
2. SF36
3. Nottingham Health Profile

Patient Satisfaction Surveys

PROBLEMS MEASURING OUTCOMES

The measurement of a true outcome seeks to link a particular intervention to a particular measurable outcome. Health care is complex and can involve many different health professionals working with an individual. Additionally, it is difficult to quantify individual patient differences (e.g. social circumstances, compliance, motivation, response to illness) and service specific differences (e.g. treatment methods, knowledge, skills, experience of different clinicians). Consequently, the measurement of a true outcome can be confounded by many different variables that can be difficult to control.