


**LA TROBE**  
UNIVERSITY

*Clinical Indicators for Clinical Governance in Community Health*


Professor Hal Swerissen  
Acting Dean  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
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## Clinical indicators

- **Definition of clinical indicators (CIs):**

CIs “can be measures of structure, process and outcome, either as generic measures relevant for all diseases, or disease-specific measures that describe the quality of patient care related to a specific diagnosis” (Mainz, 2003)
- **Effective use vs. data collection exercise**
- **‘Indicators’**
- **Number of indicators**



Mainz, J (2003) *Int J Qual Health Care* 15(6): 523-530

## Features of clinical indicators

- **Meaningfulness**
  - Evidence-based
  - Expert consensus
- **Relevance to current practice**
  - Review cycle
- **Data collection**
  - Too onerous = rejection
  - Embedding into practice

## Potential clinical indicators

- **Victorian Quality Council (VQC) framework**
  - Six dimensions of quality
  - Clinical indicators for effectiveness
  - Scope within other dimensions of quality
- **Types of effectiveness indicators**
  - Discipline-based
  - Disease-based
  - Systems-based

## Discipline-based CIs

- Exemplar: DHSV community dental indicators
- Developed indicator sets: e.g. AusTOMs
- Measures for other areas?

## Disease-based CIs

- Multidisciplinary indicators?
- Chronic disease – major area of activity
- Variety of approaches described
  - EICD initiative
  - National Primary Care Collaboratives
  - Healthy for Life
  - Common elements
  - Risk factors

## Disease-based CIs - example

- Nth Carolina Quality of Care in Diabetes (Bell et al 2001)

Indicator	% clients
HbA1c measurement (previous 12 months)	53 %
HbA1c control (less than 9.5 %)	40 %
BP measurement (previous 12 months)	78 %
BP control (less than 140/90 mmHg)	30 %
Lipid measurement (previous 12 months)	45 %
Lipid control (LDL cholesterol less than 3 mmol/L)	24 %
Complete foot assessment (previous 12 months)	3 %

## System-based CIs

- Overall context
- Basic (and policy) imperative
- Questions for Boards of Management:
  - Providing practitioners with best systems?
  - What elements can be improved?
- Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (ACIC)
  - Practitioners rate organisational elements
  - Based on Wagner Chronic Care Model

## System-based CIs

- **ACIC domains (Bonomi et al, 2002):**
  - Organisation of delivery system
  - Community linkages
  - Self-management support
  - Decision support
  - Delivery system design
  - Clinical information systems
- Individual components within each
- Ratings of little, basic, good and full support



Bonomi, A et al (2002) *Health Serv Res* 37(3): 791-820

## System-based CIs

- **Recent NT study using ACIC (Si et al, 2005)**
  - Stages of development of CH centres
  - Quality of care for diabetes
- Developmental stages low or mid-range
- Ratings for domains related to better outcomes
  - E.g. delivery system design



Si, D et al (2005) *BMC Health Serv Res* 5: 56

