Policy Guidelines for Value-Based Care

Policy makers can use these guidelines to promote the delivery of value-based integrated health and social care for older adults supported by digital solutions and anchored in a human rights-based approach.

Current Challenges in the Health and Social Care Services

#1 Older people in need of care often lack access to services.
#2 Structural constraints such as staff shortages, underfunding and lack of financial sustainability.
#3 Lack of monitoring and evaluation of the quality of the services delivered.
#4 The competencies/services are fragmented and uncoordinated.
#5 Ageism is still a cross-cutting challenge driving to poor quality in health and social care, lack of respect for older people’s equal right to autonomy, rehabilitation, independent living and participation.

POLICY RESPONSE: Move to a VALUE-BASED health and social care system. Value is the measured improvement in the individual’s outcomes for the cost of achieving that improvement. Under value-based care agreements, older people’s outcomes that truly matter to them are at the centre of health and social care delivery.

This new vision is based on a team-oriented approach to care and secure sharing of data so that care is coordinated, and patient outcomes can be measured easily. It also focuses on the improvement of staff satisfaction and achieving greater efficiency in the use of resources.
#1 Promote Older People Engagement and Empowerment

- Empower older individuals, their families and communities to actively participate in care decisions by providing information, capacity-building and digital tools for **shared decision-making**.
- Encourage the **co-development of care plans** defined with older people and their families within a team-based and holistic approach, putting their outcomes in the center.
- Develop awareness campaigns to **fight ageism in the health and social care sector**.

#2 Set the lead on monitoring and evaluation of quality of care

- Establish standardized **quantitative and qualitative outcome measures** taking an integrated value-based care approach.
- Encourage health and social care providers to regularly **report on beneficiary outcomes**, including clinical, functional, and quality of life metrics.
- Make this outcome data publicly available with the required safety and easily accessible to patients, providers, and payers to encourage **transparency and informed decision-making**.
- Promote a **culture of continuous improvement and learning** within healthcare organizations.

#3 Enhance collaboration, coordination and communication mechanisms across sectors

- **Incentivize health and social care providers to collaborate**, share information, and coordinate care to reduce duplication and improve outcomes.
- Invest in and promote the **adoption of electronic health records (EHRs)** and development of **platforms** that can measure in real-time the relevant outcomes indicators to deliver the value agreed with the beneficiary, facilitating data exchange and interoperability.
- Develop **standards for care data exchange** to enable seamless sharing of beneficiary information across different health and social care settings, ensuring high ethical standards and optimal data management.
- Implement **robust data security and privacy measures** to protect beneficiary information in an increasingly digitized healthcare landscape.
- Provide **clear and transparent public information about data** use, data protection and data treatment for people to be informed about data and about the available services and policies.
#4 Focus on prevention and population health literacy

- Prioritize **preventive care measures**, such as screening for chronic conditions and campaigns promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Focus on **addressing social determinants of health**, including education, housing, and nutrition, which can impact health and social care outcomes.
- Integrate a life-course approach in the design of a **long-term vision for health and social care**.
- Aim at the **elimination of practices that aggravate physical and cognitive decline**, including restraints and inadequate medication prescribing.

#5 Improve working conditions, satisfaction and wellbeing of care providers and professionals

- Invest in the **training and education of health and social care professionals** to ensure they have the skills and knowledge needed for value-based care.
- Promote the development of **multidisciplinary teams** that can work together to provide comprehensive and holistic care.
- Provide adequate **resources for workers** in the health and social care sector, including their capacity and mental health, paying attention also to employees' wider conditions (e.g., childcare provisions; transportation provision; pension provisions).
- Promote **cooperation, research and knowledge exchange** in the field of value-based care at the European level to facilitate networking, skills and knowledge sharing between health and social care professionals, researchers, policymakers and end-user representatives.

#6 Support alternative payment models that reward high-quality care delivery

- Shift reimbursement models from fee-for-service to **value-based payment systems**, ensuring value through strategic purchasing.
- Give **(non-)financial incentives** that reward providers for achieving quality benchmarks, improving better patient outcomes and reducing costs (e.g., reward providers for improving patient satisfaction, and implementing preventive care measures).
- **Fund research** and evaluation efforts to assess the impact of value-based care initiatives and adjust policies accordingly.
To view the full research supporting these policy guidelines visit

www.projectvaluecare.eu