

# Strengthen interdisciplinarity in Geriatric Rehabilitation

## A multicenter implementation of a generic core set

### Introduction

By using patient outcomes the quality of Geriatric Rehabilitation will be measurable and can be used for evaluation. The use of generic measurement instruments makes evaluation possible on different levels starting with the individual patient. It provides information concerning health conditions, body functions, activities, participation, environmental and personal factors. Also it provides the possibility of evaluating on the level of Geriatric Rehabilitation departments and on organization level of elderly care facilities. With transparent outcomes on these different levels, scientific research on effectiveness and efficiency will receive an impulse for enhancing Geriatric Rehabilitation.

### Objectives

- (1) Strengthen interdisciplinarity
- (2) Optimize care delivery in Geriatric Rehabilitation



### Methods

After developing a digitized generic core set, a pilot implementation study to evaluate user-friendliness and the practical daily use was performed in one elderly care facility. The promising results from the pilot brought us to the next step, a challenging multicenter implementation trajectory supporting Geriatric Rehabilitation teams. During the trajectory the circle technic<sup>1</sup> was used to visualize progress and clarifying points for attention. In addition a comprehensive implementation matrix<sup>2</sup> was used to position project activities. Knowledge was shared by multicenter Geriatric Rehabilitation teams, which provided them with information to execute the necessary steps to realize the change in collaboration.



### Results

- Implementation of the core set gives cause for a task shift within the team of healthcare professionals.
- Instead of individual intakes by all separate disciplines, the elderly care physician, nurse and occupational therapist took the lead.
- By discussing collected information during team consultations, outcomes and problems became more patient centered and have more value for the patient.

These results may lead to:

- More intensive collaboration by the Geriatric Rehabilitation team
- Shared goals
- Saved professional time collecting information concerning health conditions, body functions, activities, participation, environmental and personal factors
- Less patient burden

### Conclusions

The shift from an usual monodisciplinary to a more interdisciplinary collaboration in Geriatric Rehabilitation is possible but asks firm implementation, that goes beyond only sharing information and education. The change in collaboration goes together with trust and the recognition of the expertise of the other team members.



1. Visser, C (2016). Progressiegerichte werken. Betekenisvolle voortgang. Driebergen-Rijsenburg. Just-In-Time Books.  
2. Poot, A.J., Waard de, C.S., Wind, A.W., Caljouw, M.A.A., Gussekloo, J., (2017). A Structured Process Description of a Pragmatic Implementation Project: Improving Integrated Care for Older Persons in Residential Care Homes. The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing Volume 54: 1–10