

Information as An Enabler for Sustainable Value-Driven Healthcare Across Europe

Workshop Outcomes – Brussels, 24 October 2019

INTRODUCTION

European healthcare systems are faced with challenges on multiple fronts: An ever-aging population coupled with an increasing prevalence of chronic diseases raise concerns over their sustainability. This predicament has been echoed in many discussions on ways to improve value in care. In-vitro diagnostics are an integral part of today's healthcare as they provide important information at every step of the patient's journey, from prognosis, screening, diagnosis to monitoring the progression of disease, and predicting treatment responses. Despite their wide range of benefits, in-vitro diagnostics and the valuable information they generate have not been considered in this discussion so far.

In this light, the 'Value of Diagnostic Information' (VODI) concept report by Wurcel et al. (2019) looks at different perspectives (patients, healthcare professionals, health systems and society) and offers a comprehensive framework for assessing the value of diagnostic information that goes beyond the context of a specific treatment and traditional cost-effectiveness considerations.

Leveraging the recent VODI publication, MedTech Europe – the voice of the European medical technology industry - hosted a workshop on 24 October 2019 entitled 'Information as an Enabler for Sustainable Value-Driven Healthcare Delivery in Europe'. This workshop brought together a group of selected stakeholders from patient representatives, over healthcare professionals to EU policy-makers, to provide their insights on the role of diagnostic information for sustainable and value-driven healthcare. The participants were invited to critically reflect upon the VODI concept and to discuss its operationalization.

This document summarizes the discussion during the workshop and identifies next steps to ensure that the value of diagnostic information is recognized and reflected in healthcare systems across Europe

In-vitro diagnostics provide crucial information at every step of the patient's journey.

DISCUSSION AMONG WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

The need to unlock the full potential of diagnostic information for sustainable and value-driven healthcare across Europe

The VODI concept suggests that diagnostic information provides multi-perspective value, as the information might be valued differently from the different perspectives of the relevant stakeholders. In this regard, participants intensively discussed the potential benefits for patients. As diagnostic information creates value both by promoting clinical benefit (patient management after testing) and better understanding of the medical condition ('value of knowing'), participants emphasized the importance of the VODI concept to improve patients' health outcomes.

Likewise, the crucial role of diagnostic information in the area of rare diseases was discussed. Patients suffering from a rare disease often experience a diagnosis challenge due to the lack of detailed knowledge about the condition's history. In that sense, diagnostic information can improve the knowledge about rare diseases. The European Commission has launched a platform on rare diseases (including diagnostic information) to enable better diagnosis and treatment (The European Platform on Rare Diseases Registration).

At the same time, participants described the lack of recognition of the value of diagnostic information by healthcare systems in many EU countries. Moreover, participants argued that healthcare systems are often unable to handle the information available and then act on it. In fact, screening for i.e. colon cancer can ensure 90% chance of survival if detected, whilst the price for the treatment can be unbearable for many healthcare systems.

As far as the 'value of knowing' is concerned, it was highlighted that it can provide reassurance to patients, their families and carers knowing that they do have or don't have a certain disease. One extreme example presented during the discussion was in the area of Alzheimer's and Huntington diseases, where tests to detect these conditions exist but no effective treatment is available so far.

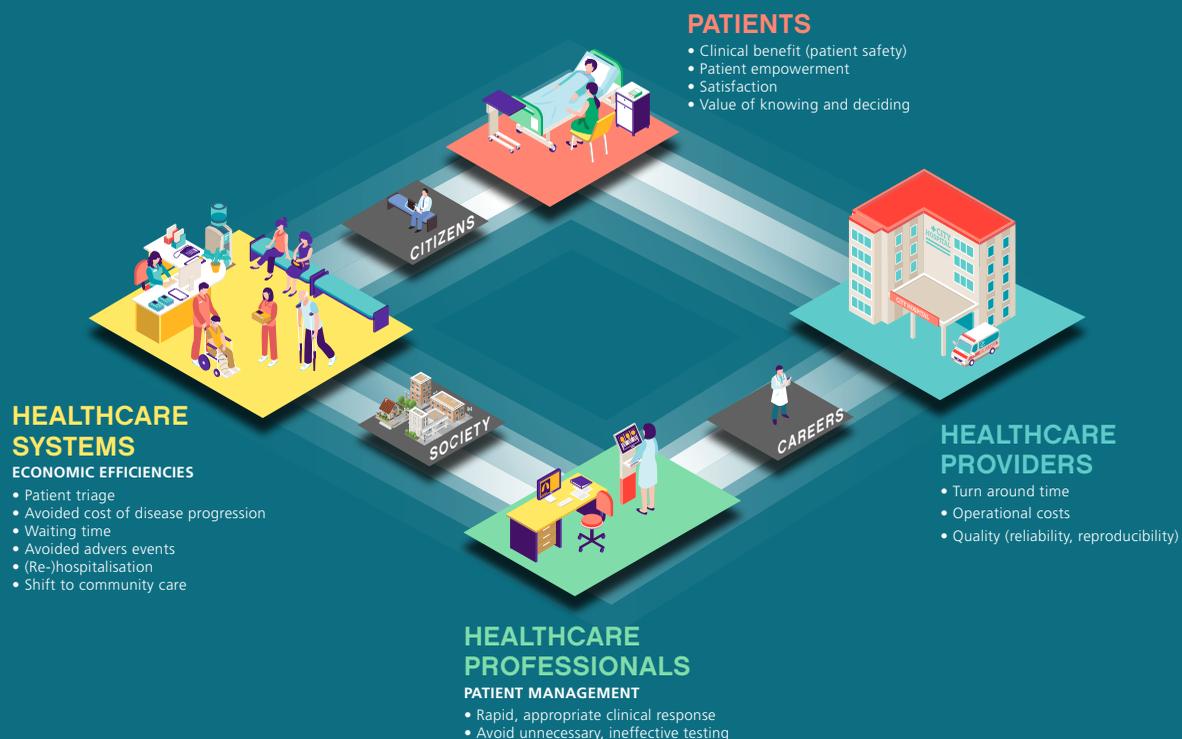
In addition, participants found that these types of disease - as many others - would benefit from increased collaboration across the life sciences industry, and particularly between the pharmaceutical and the medical technology industry. This way, diagnostic information would also help to better select those patients who would benefit the most from a particular treatment, making diagnostic information the gatekeeper for personalized medicine.

Finally, participants referred to the choice of name of the VODI concept, namely 'the value of diagnostic information'. The discussion during the workshop clearly showcased that the value of information provided by in-vitro diagnostic is certainly not limited to 'diagnosis'. On the contrary, this source of information can also be crucial for prevention, monitoring and beyond. Some participants suggested that the strong emphasis on 'diagnostic' in naming 'VODI' might be misleading and may not do justice to the all the elements that comprise value along the patient's pathway. This observation also led participants to discuss the role of information more broadly for healthcare, independent of its source.

The 'Value of Diagnostic Information' concept as an assessment framework goes beyond traditional cost-effectiveness considerations.

Diagnostic information generates
multi-perspective value.

VODI: Value of Diagnostic Information



It's now time to join forces and
put VODI in practice

CONCLUSIONS

A collaborative approach to make VODI reality

Given its importance for patients, healthcare professionals and healthcare systems, participants generally supported and endorsed the VODI concept as well as expressed interest in continuing the discussion in the future. A strong emphasis was placed on the need for its operationalization to promote the concept's uptake in healthcare systems. Moreover, participants suggested to foster collaboration among key stakeholders (e.g. health policymakers, healthcare professionals but also within the life sciences industry) to address the challenges in implementing the VODI concept. MedTech Europe - in agreement with the participants - decided to re-convene in the near future for a co-creative workshop to discuss further on the operationalization by leveraging the first results of the VODI case project.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Digestive Cancers Europe / EuropaColon
- European Alliance Personalized Medicine
- European Commission
- European Federation of Nurses Associations
- European Health Management Association
- European Patients' Forum
- European Society of Cardiology
- Hologic
- Institute for Innovation through Health Data
- Johnson & Johnson
- MedTech Europe
- Roche
- The Office of Health Economics
- Vie Et Coeur (AVEC)