

Outcome Measures for Podiatric Surgery

Explanation:

- Outcome measures can be the assessment of the benefits of an intervention or the goals and objectives that are established after initial diagnostic workup.
- Measuring patient outcomes as a Quality Indicator (QI) obligates practitioners to address the efficacy and quality of interventions.
- Outcomes measures can be used for any health care activity.
- Here is an example:

Podiatric Surgery:

- Objective – 80% of patients will have achieved stated goals and objectives eg straight toes.
- Method of Collection – 100% of discharged patient files are reviewed at time of discharge to determine if initial goals and objectives were achieved /not achieved/exceeded.
- Information is tracked by patient type, surgery type, surgeon and severity.

Possible reasons for non-attainment

- Patient related: motivation, attendance record, illness, severity, complications, psycho-social/economic/cultural/ethnic factors.
- Financial related: limitation of comprehensive options of surgery, follow-up limitations.
- Treatment related: method, surgical approach and appropriateness.

After initial outcome data is collected the data is analysed and the practitioner ascertains the reason for non-attainment / attainment of outcome goals and objectives. Action to be taken/not taken as appropriate.

- If goals met - identify the measures that contributed to the successful outcome.
- If goals not met – identify the measures that contributed to this outcome and identify the actions that need to be taken.

To complete the QI cycle, use this system to determine if there is a greater/lesser incidence of patients meeting discharge goals/objectives.

- If greater, then quality has improved.
- If less, then quality of care has not improved