

## WS13

### Indicators: the power of measuring - scaring or caring?

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**Type of workshop:** An interactive workshop, small groups and short presentations

**Target group:** Guideline developers, guideline implementers and decision makers.

**Aim:** To gather experiences on guideline indicators: what kind of indicators exist, how are the indicators used and what are the effects and benefits?

To understand the characteristics of a good guideline indicator and how to create one.

To have ideas how to enhance the use of indicators as an implementation tool.

**Background:** The national evidence based Current Care guideline work started in Finland 15 years ago. The aim was to help health care professionals in decision making. Now there are 93 guidelines available. Yearly some new guidelines are under development and about 30 are being updated. There is both national and international increasing interest to indicators for guideline implementation and a need to show effectiveness of guidelines. Still, the quality of indicators and their use in implementation are heterogeneous and dependent on local interests. Clinicians and guideline groups are often interested in clinical endpoints. However, it is important to understand that the guidelines can potentially change clinical practices of health care professionals. And in best cases in the long run these changes improve also patients' clinical endpoints. Therefore the measuring should be targeted to the performance of the professionals rather than clinical endpoints. In some cases, the indicator should be a combination of both process and clinical endpoint indicator of a certain disease.

#### Topics:

1. What kind of guideline indicators exist in your country and how they are used?
2. What do different users (the health care professional/ organisations/political decision makers) expect from a guideline indicator?
3. How should the results of the indicators be presented to patients, professionals, organisations and political decision makers (in general and in case of an example indicator)?