Basque – Nouvelle Aquitaine (Risk Stratification)

Twinning overview

Originator: Kronikgune and Osakidetza, Basque Country	Adopter: Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Nouvelle-Aquitaine	Innovative Practice: Risk Stratification

Innovative Practice Description

The stratification process in the Basque Country (BC) classifies more than two million citizens according to the resources that they will require during the following twelve months. The data comes from Osakidetza (Basque Public Health Service) and the Department of Health, based on the previous use of health resources, demographic, socioeconomic and clinical variables.

The outcome (dependent variable) generated by the Basque Country Risk Stratification (RS) is the predicted next year healthcare costs (Predictive Index PI). Then population is classified in four groups according to the presence or not of a chronic disease, 95th percentile of healthcare costs is used and only for chronic population. Two different thresholds are being considered for next year's healthcare expenditure which will involve dividing the population into low- and high-cost patients: 95th and 99th percentiles of healthcare costs. This was used only to assess the effectiveness of the tool, but actually only 95th percentile is used and only for chronic population. The RS is based on predictive modelling using regression techniques, and both the calibration and internal validation of the model have been performed using the data (standardized costs of admissions, visits and procedures provided to each patient) recorded in 2008 and 2009 from more than 2 million patients from the Basque Country.

Thus, the expected use of health resources, the "output", is a proxy of patient morbidity and severity with different needs of care. The aim of stratifying is to identify and select target groups that may benefit from specific programmes of action. Consequently, Integrated Intervention Programmes for multi-morbid and specific diseases patient groups (e.g. for diabetes, COPD, etc.) have been already deployed with the objective to provide anticipatory care and coordinated care to all patients identified through the risk stratification tool.

Link to the EIP on AHA Repository of innovative practices:

https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/repository/population-risk-stratification-deployment-stratification-methods-basque-country_en

Innovation Scope:

✓ Health and care needs assessment toolkit

Innovation Type:

✓ Knowledge exchange & training (through the exchange and field visit)
✓ Adaptation (through the field visit, which allowed a deeper understanding of the innovation)

AHA Action Group:

✓ A3. Action for prevention of functional decline and frailty

Twinning Objectives:

The overall shared objective is to enhance implementation of innovation strategies on integrated health care within Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Basque Country. One of these innovations could be the RS tool as a predictive tool for the management of chronic conditions: the visit has allowed delegates and experts to have a deeper exchange with RS experts in order to strengthen their own programs and build expertise.

Collaboration in the research field in order to gather expertise and competences before starting a phase of transfer/adoption of the good practice has also been considered possible.

Twinning end result:
The twinning did not yet result in the implementation of the innovative practice due to certain barriers (*e.g.* differences in how to access the system through primary care centres, differences in medical cost coverage). Alternative solutions are going to be considered.