

Advancing Outcome Measurement: The Outlook for PROMs in Saudi Arabia

Policy roundtable: summary



Valuing Patient Voices: Expert roundtable supports greater national collaboration on patient-reported outcome measures

Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) are measurement tools that give healthcare practitioners a much clearer understanding of patients' health status and the real effects of treatments that patients receive.

Value in health, a national think tank on value-based health and care in Saudi Arabia, convened a roundtable of health system stakeholders in Riyadh on 9 July 2024, where measures were discussed to improve adoption and spread of PROMs in the Saudi health system. The roundtable included experts from the public and private sectors, including from healthcare providers, insurers and academia.

Roundtable participants noted the significant progress that had already been made by clinicians, healthcare providers and insurers to introduce PROMs to Saudi Arabia. To scale up PROMs initiatives, what is now needed is:

01

National standards and guidelines for PROMs

02

Integration of PROMs into clinical workflows

03

Capability building and training for healthcare providers and patients

04










Coordinated implementation and evaluation of PROMs initiatives

05

Collaboration among stakeholders to share best practices and resources



Building on what was said by roundtable participants, value in health is now working on building the coalition for change to provide national focus and drive PROMs adoption. Initial tasks for such a group could include:

-  Developing a National Library for PROMs: Creating and maintaining a centralized repository of validated and culturally adapted measurement tools for various health conditions.
-  Standardizing PROMs: Establishing national guidelines for the use and implementation of PROMs, ensuring consistency in data collection, analysis, and reporting.
-  Conducting Pilot Projects: Support initiating and following pilot projects to test PROMs in different clinical settings, gather data, and refine implementation strategies.
-  Enhancing Collaboration: Fostering collaboration across the health sector between healthcare providers, policymakers, technology partners, and patient groups to ensure comprehensive support for PROMs initiatives.
-  Strengthening IT Infrastructure: Providing guidance to integrate PROMs into electronic health record systems, ensuring the systems can handle PROMs data efficiently.
-  Capability-building and Education: Implementing educational programs for healthcare providers and patients to improve understanding and usage of PROMs.
-  Identifying Resources: Securing funding and resources for the development, implementation, and maintenance of PROMs, including technological upgrades and administrative support.
-  Patient Engagement: Developing strategies to enhance patient engagement, including educational campaigns and feedback mechanisms to show patients how their input influences care.
-  Continuous Evaluation and Improvement: Establishing mechanisms for the ongoing evaluation of PROMs initiatives to assess impact, identify areas for improvement, and adapt strategies as needed.

Advancing these activities will be crucial steps towards realizing high-value, person-centered care in Saudi Arabia. By standardizing PROMs, enhancing collaboration, building capability, and promoting education, the task force will ensure that the healthcare system effectively utilizes PROMs to improve patient outcomes and healthcare quality. Such a coordinated national effort would rightly position Saudi Arabia as a global leader in the implementation of PROMs.

Appendix

Pre-roundtable survey results

The roundtable was attended by 52 participants, of which 21 were in-person and 31 online. Participants represented a range of stakeholder organizations from the public and private sectors. Prior to the roundtable, a survey was conducted to seek the participants' views and experiences on the current state of using PROMs in the Kingdom and how to achieve greater alignment and collaboration. 35% of participants responded to the pre-roundtable survey. Here is a summary of the results:



1 PROMs in Saudi Arabia:

A Views on PROMs

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree
PROMs are essential for high-value care	0%	0%	100%
PROMs measure important patient outcomes	0%	6%	94%
Greater coordination and standardization of PROMs would drive better value	6%	6%	88%
Investment in PROMs increases value	6%	6%	88%
PROMs primarily inform individual patient care	13%	19%	68%
Arabic PROMs are ready for use in KSA	62%	19%	19%

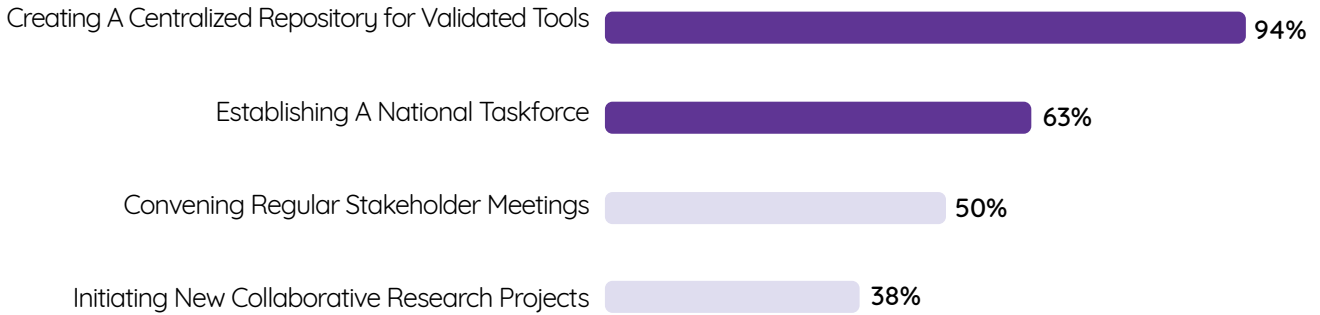
B Ranking of Stakeholder Responsibilities in Leading PROMs Development in Saudi Arabia (Ranked from Most to Least Relevant)

- 1 National government regulators
- 2 Public healthcare providers
- 3 Public healthcare payer
- 4 Individual clinicians and professional associations
- 5 Private healthcare providers
- 6 Private sector health insurance
- 7 Patients and citizens
- 8 Pharma and medtech
- 9 Commercial digital and analytics organizations
Universities

C Common themes in the challenges of Increasing Adoption of PROMs in Saudi Arabia (Ranked from Most to Least Common):

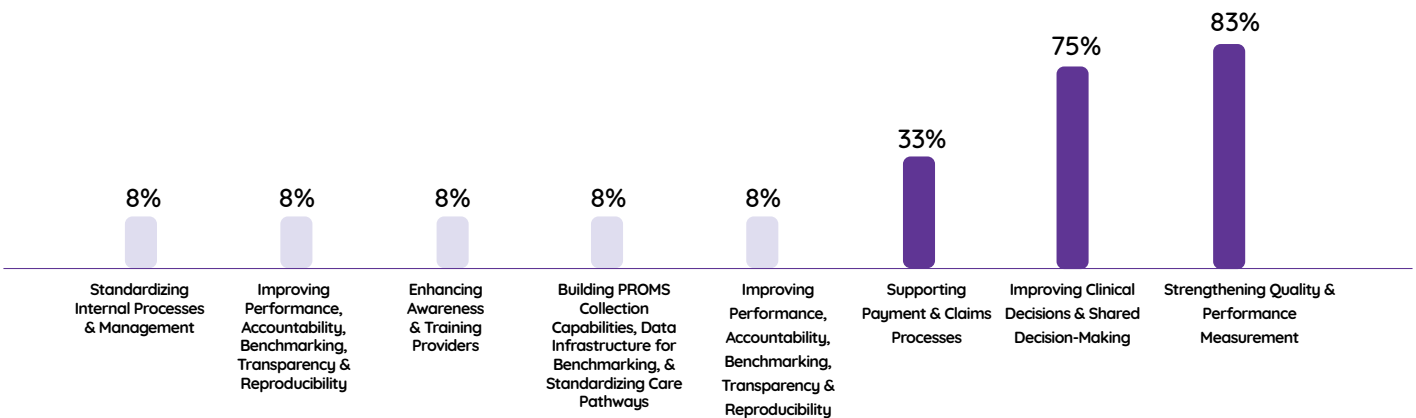
- 1 Integration into Clinical Workflow and Data Infrastructure
- 2 Patient Engagement and Compliance
- 3 Regulatory and Strategic Challenges
- 4 Education and Awareness
- 5 Technological and Resource Barriers
- 6 Incentives and Policy Support
- 7 Cultural and Linguistic Barriers
- 8 Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination

D Strategies for Better Coordination of PROMs Tool Development Across Saudi Arabia:

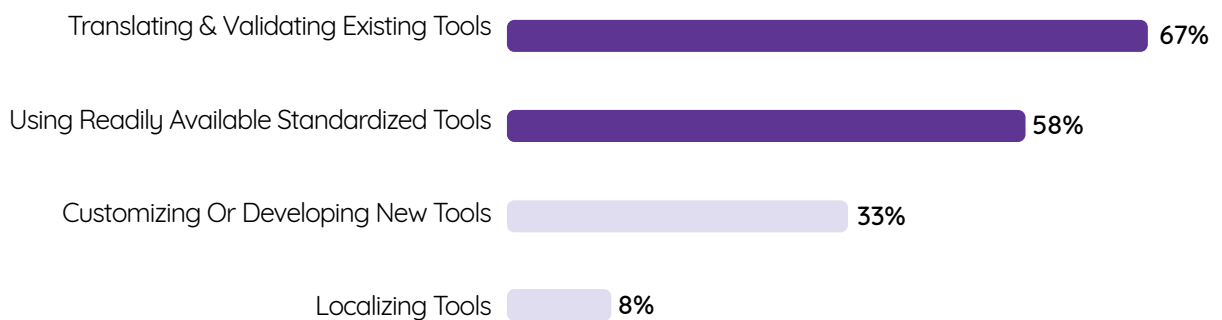


2 Experiences with PROMS

A PROMs Initiative Main Objectives:



B Tools Development Methods in the PROMs Experience:



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