

PREVENTION, CARE, REHABILITATION: COORDINATING THE PATHWAY

Speakers: **Sophie BEAUPÈRE**, CEO of Unicancer | France, **Marguerite CAZENEUVE**, Associate Director at the National Health Insurance Fund - CNAM | France, **Audrey DERVELOY**, President of Sanofi France | France, **Virginie GENIEYS**, Deputy CEO of IMA Group - Inter Mutuelles Assistance | France, **Stéphane JUNIQUE**, President of Groupe VYV | France

Debate led by **Didier BAZZOCCHI**, Vice President of the Think Tank CRAPS | France

Harmonized care pathways enhance healthcare quality and system efficiency

A harmonized care pathway is an integrated approach to healthcare delivery. It is designed to ensure effective and continuous coordination among various healthcare stakeholders (healthcare professionals, industry representatives, public and private players, insurers, etc.). These stakeholders revolve around the care pathway and play a crucial role within it. Collaboration between these stakeholders is essential to ensure:

- The quality of care, which is a central concept in the harmonized pathway,
- The consistency of care, without unnecessary interruptions or duplications.

The aim of this collaboration is to improve the experience and the health of the patient in the long run, as well as the efficiency of the healthcare system.

Toward a flat-rate capitation system that values care coordination and care quality

The healthcare financing system is increasingly shifting towards the adoption of a flat-rate capitation-based model. This evolution is based on an innovative approach aimed at enhancing the efficiency and quality of care while controlling costs. Rather than targeting fee-for-service transactions, the flat-rate capitation system encourages healthcare providers to focus more on prevention, care coordination, and chronic disease management. Hence, this model contributes to the financial sustainability of the healthcare system. But most importantly, it creates a favourable environment for the implementation of harmonized care pathways, within which care is more consistent, accessible, and of higher quality. The French innovation funding program "Article 51" allows experimentations with innovative project-based flat-rate capitation models at the local level, with the goal of improving the quality of care. If these innovative practices are proven to be effective, they can be generalized across the entire French healthcare system.

A clear organization is necessary to ensure coordinated care pathways

The organizational dimension associated with the creation of coordinated care pathways is of paramount importance. The efficient organization of harmonized care pathways improves the patient's access to health care. It also prevents the duplication of tests, diagnostic delays, and medical errors. The implementation of new technologies such as telemonitoring, remote consultation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the interoperability of healthcare professionals' software systems are important organizational drivers. These driving forces promote the development of an efficient and coordinated care pathway.

The patient needs to be at the centre of the pathway to improve the quality of care.

Positioning the patient at the centre of the care pathway is of utmost importance to focus on the individuals receiving care, their needs, preferences, and well-being. Prioritizing the patient ensures that medical decisions are in line with their health goals and personal experiences. Communication, understanding and mutual trust between the patient and healthcare providers are thereby improved. Therefore, patients are encouraged to become active partners in managing their own health and making informed decisions, leading to more treatment adherence. Positioning the patient at the centre of the care pathway contributes to improving the quality of care, to increasing patient satisfaction, and to promoting better health outcomes, which is the ultimate goal of every high-quality healthcare system.