The Use of Care Pathway Analysis to Inform Health Economic Models and Evidence Generation Requirements: Practical Applications and Examples from Two Projects

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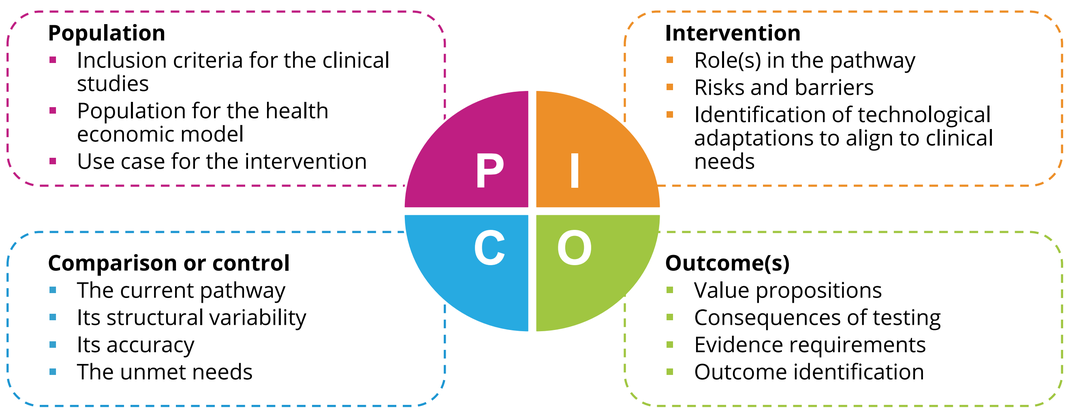
BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The care pathway is the journey that a patient, with certain signs and symptoms, takes during an episode of healthcare. Care pathway analysis (CPA) is used to identify and map the medical decisions within the current pathway for a certain condition. This can then be compared with a pathway that includes the new technology and can be used to inform the PICO process (Figure 1).

The objective of this work was to describe two very different case studies where this methodology was useful.

Figure 1: How CPA can inform PICO



METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

CASE STUDY 1: AN EARLY-STAGE MEDICAL DEVICE

INTERVENTION

A non-surgical technology that uses light to excite the natural properties of protein in the lens of the eye to improve vision.

OBJECTIVE

- To identify the care pathway for adults with cataracts in the UK.
- To identify the potential uses, value propositions, and barriers to adoption of the new technology.

METHODS

- Review of 10 international guidelines
- Interviews with ophthalmologists, ophthalmic surgeons, optometrists and budget holders (n=9)

Figure 2: Key findings of case study 1

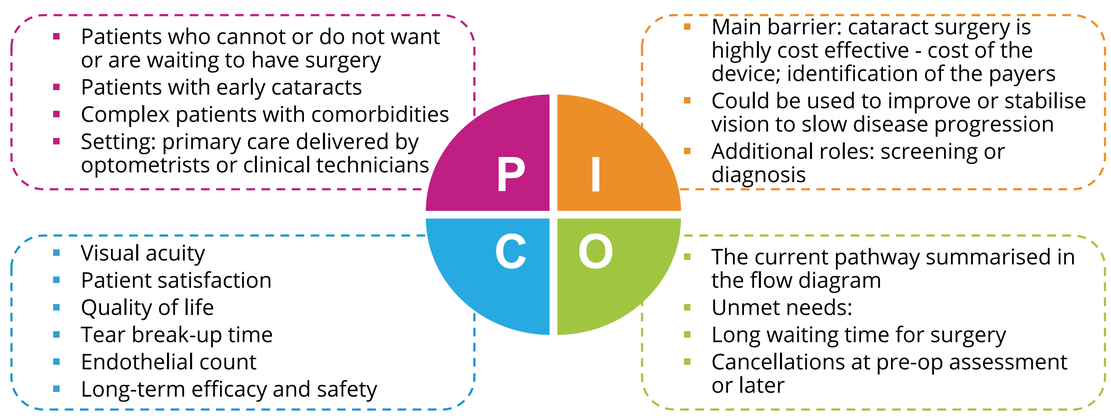


Figure 3: The care pathway flow diagram

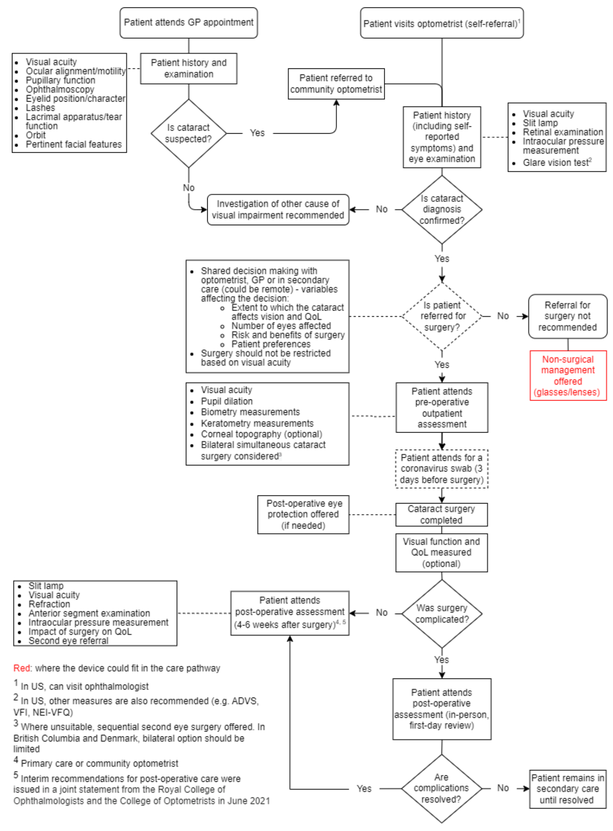
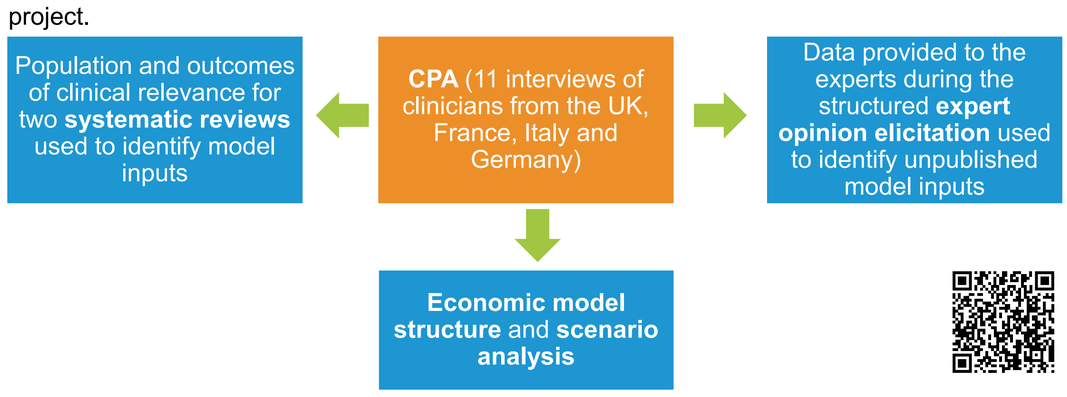


Figure 4: CPA feedback from tech developers

CASE STUDY 2: A LATE-STAGE COMPLEX DRUG EVALUATION

In rare diseases, like AOSD, clinical guidelines are often lacking, pathways are highly variable, and robust trials are limited. A robust methodological approach was developed to inform a cost-effectiveness model in this population; CPA informed all the elements of the project.



CONCLUSIONS

CPA is a useful method to support the development of economic models. It is useful for new diagnostics and devices in early stage of development, and in more complex multi-phase late-stage drug evaluations where the pathway is highly variable.

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