



What are the main challenges in management care of stoma patients in France

Guidelines from SHIELD multidisciplinary experts for optimization

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CONTEXT

In France, around 100,000 people live with a stoma¹. This medical procedure disrupts about 25,000 people's lives each year¹. Indeed, the stoma has been created as a result of a severe pathology, most often cancer or inflammatory bowel disease. Develop a global management care of stoma patients is key to reduce the impact of physical alteration, nutritional, psychological and social consequences.

OBJECTIVES

SHIELD (Strategic Healthcare Initiative for Easier Life Days) is a unique initiative started in 2019 to optimize the management care of stoma patients through the coordination of each healthcare actor, especially in hospital discharge and follow-up in community.

METHODS

Guidelines have been developed based on a targeted literature research and expert opinions from a national multidisciplinary expert committee (*Figure 1*) representing different healthcare actors, including patient associations involved in stoma care pathway². The committee's work followed three defined phases :

1. Description of the current state of patient care at each stage of the pathway (*Figure 2*),
2. Identification of major hurdles at each stage of the pathway, particularly on hospital discharge and community follow-up,
3. Definition of the most important areas for improvement and recommendations for practice.

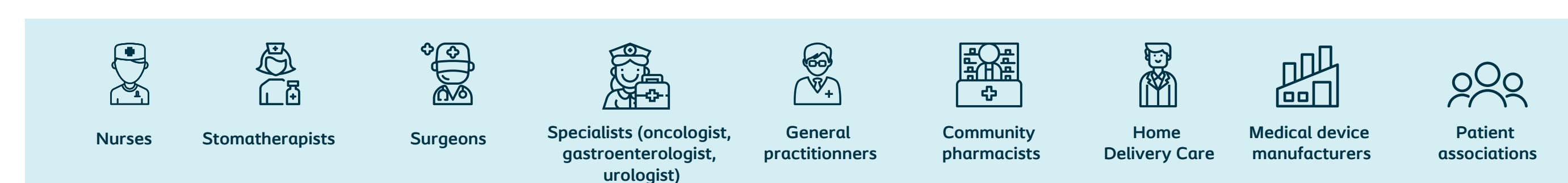


Figure 1. Expert Panel, 2019 – 2021. Note: Public disclosures of potential conflicts of interests for each committee member are available at <https://dpi.sante.gouv.fr>

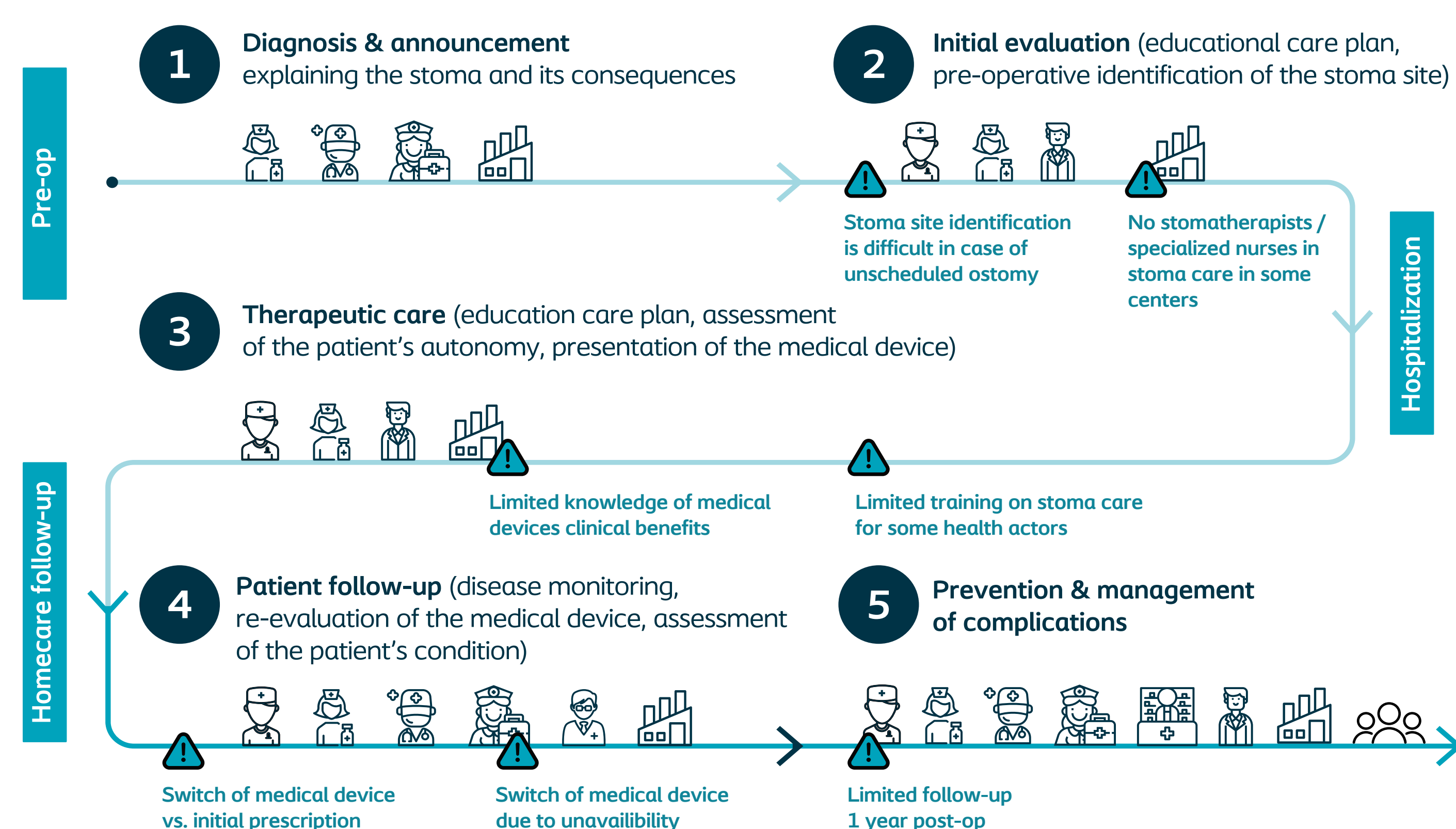


Figure 2. Identification of a plurality of actors & major hurdles at each stage of the ostomy patient pathway

CONCLUSION

SHIELD is a unique initiative led by a multidisciplinary expert panel from public and private sectors, which allowed a holistic vision of ostomy patient management care from hospital to homecare.

SHIELD expert committee issued 3 major areas for improvement with 14 practical recommendations placing the patient at the core of the care pathway with better coordination between healthcare actors, better access to appliances and accessories with clinical evidence and personalized healthcare plan with homecare follow-up.

These guidelines improve the global management care of stoma patients and contribute to efficiency of healthcare system.

RESULTS

SHIELD expert committee issued 3 major areas for improvement with 14 practical recommendations placing the patient at the core of the care pathway (*Table 1*).

Table 1. Summary of SHIELD Expert committee recommendations.

I. Better coordination between healthcare providers in hospital discharge and community follow-up	II. Better access to appliances and accessories that have demonstrated a significant improvement in patients' quality of life	III. Personalized care and homecare follow-up in agreement with patient preference and professional regulations
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improve the flow of information between hospital, community and HCPs to anticipate patient's hospital discharge.2. Ensure the independence of stoma care nurses training by nursing schools. Privilege appliances with evidence of clinical benefit and ensure prescription compliance.3. Develop multidisciplinary consultation meetings for most complex cases, including hospital and community healthcare actors.4. Elaborate dietary and psychological assessments for each patient, with expert HCPs, supported by patient associations.5. Implement systematically a second consultation after diagnosis, preferably with a stomatherapist or trained nurse.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Ensure HCPs have updated scientific information on appliances, pathologies and care pathways.7. Guarantee patient a choice of ostomy appliances after surgery and in community: privilege appliances with clinical evidence of quality of life improvement.8. Remind all prescribers the importance of an independent ostomy appliance prescription and respect it at every step of the patient pathway.9. Ensure that several distributors and manufacturers are represented within the same hospital.10. 48 hours before patient hospital discharge, systematically coordinate with pharmacies or home delivery care in community to ensure prescribed appliances are available.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">11. Mobilize community healthcare actors involved in patient care pathway by creating "ostomy care network" around the patient. Choose a healthcare coordinator for community follow-up.12. Create a personalized educational care plan with the patient, HCPs, patient associations and the healthcare coordinator.13. At hospital discharge systematically create a link between patients/caregivers and patient associations and namely expert patients.14. At hospital discharge, if ostomy patient integrates a Follow-up and Rehabilitation Care, ensure healthcare actors are trained and personalized educational care plan is implemented. Before homecare, activate "ostomy care network".

References:

1. AFET - Association française des entéro-stomathérapeutes. <http://www.afet.asso.fr/>
2. Comité d'experts SHIELD : Strategic Healthcare Initiative for Easier Life Days. Guide de recommandations pour optimiser la prise en charge des patients stomisés en France : l'initiative SHIELD. 2021.

