

The Development of a National Standard Set for Bariatric Surgery Followed by a Digital Solution to Scale it at a National Level in Portugal

Sousa S¹, Dossin A¹, Fonseca-Silva A¹, Campos JC², Costa E JL³, Vasconcelos PM⁴, Manso F⁵, Manaças L⁶, Etges AP⁷, Polanczyk CA⁷, Geubelle A¹

¹Prologica, SA, São João da Madeira, Portugal, ²Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal, ³Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João, Porto, Portugal, ⁴Hospital Distrital de Santarém, Santarém, Portugal, ⁵Hospital de Braga, Braga, Portugal, ⁶Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Lisboa Central, Lisboa, Portugal, ⁷PEV Healthcare Consulting, Porto Alegre, Brazil



INTRODUCTION

Empowered by the mobilizing agendas of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (European Union funds), Prologica is championing a **Digital Value-based Healthcare Solution**, co-created with five Portuguese hospital centers. The consistent growth in Obesity incidence and the multidisciplinary nature of the Surgical Treatment of Obesity made it the ideal pilot project for the development and implementation of the solution.

OBJECTIVES

To co-create a **data collection standard set** that could be **applicable at a national level** for the journey of the **Surgical Treatment of Obesity**. The dataset should **avoid work overload** and significant changes in current clinical practice and should be **suitable as a guideline** for data collection and tracking in a VBHC digital solution.

METHODS



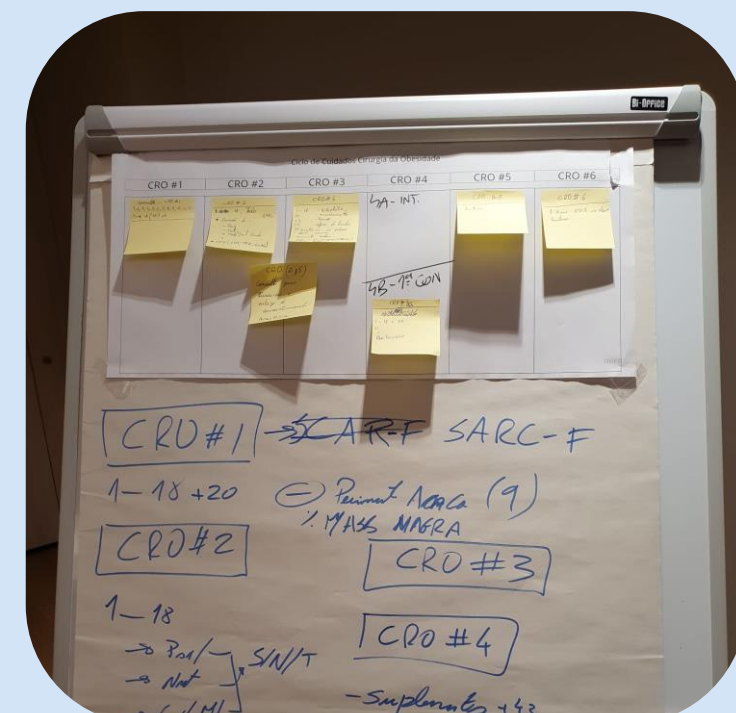
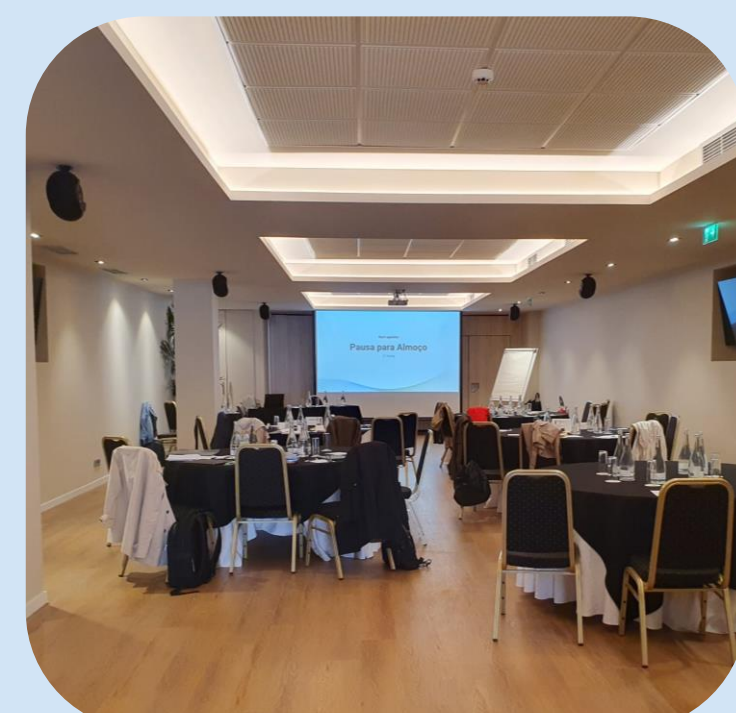
STEP 1 – Project kickoff meetings to engage hospital leadership (hospital board of directors, department head, key opinion leaders).

STEP 2 – Working sessions with clinical teams to outline the standardized patient journeys.

STEP 3 – Data review to identify similarities among hospitals and design the common clinical journey.

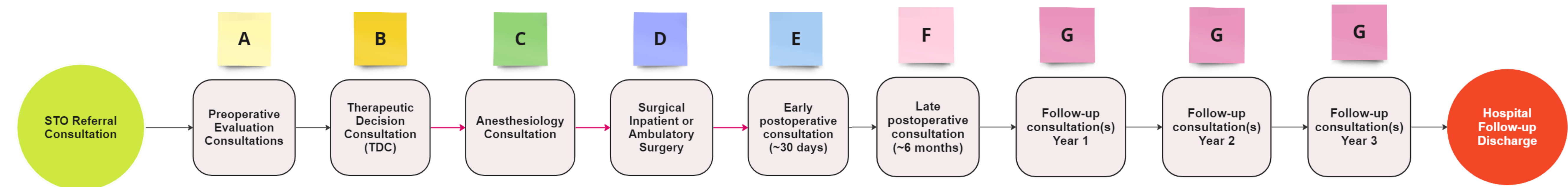
STEP 4 – Literature review of bariatric and metabolic surgery international guidelines to identify relevant clinician-reported variables (IFSO and ASMBS).

STEP 5 - Final workshop joining all the teams to achieve a consensus and validate the final standards to be used by Portuguese providers and payers.

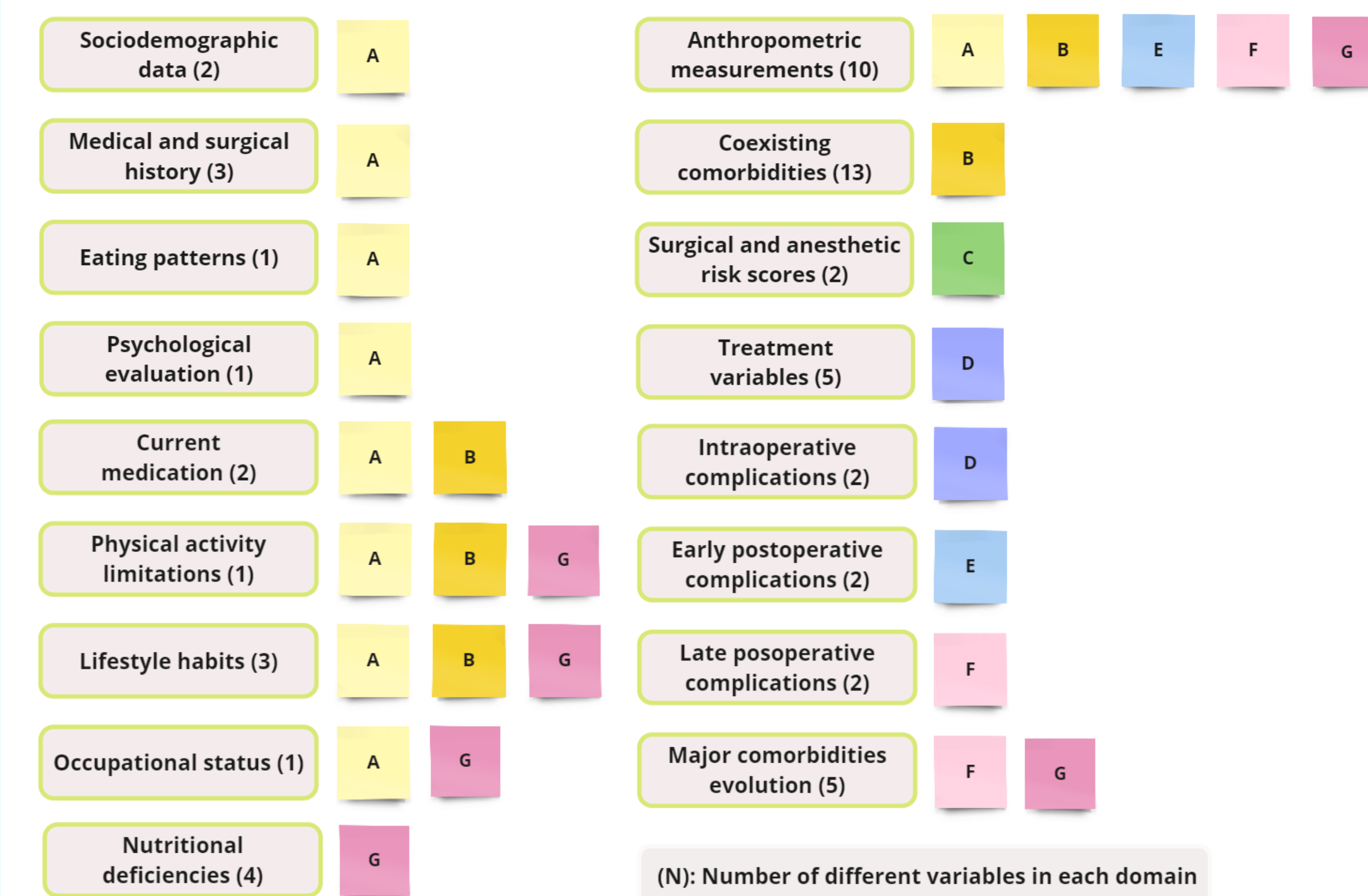


RESULTS

A final standard set was defined, consisting of a common timeline with 9 data collection points and 59 variables, including case-mix variables and clinical reported outcomes(CROs). During the process, a list of technical requirements was also highlighted (e.g. automation).



FINAL STANDARD SET

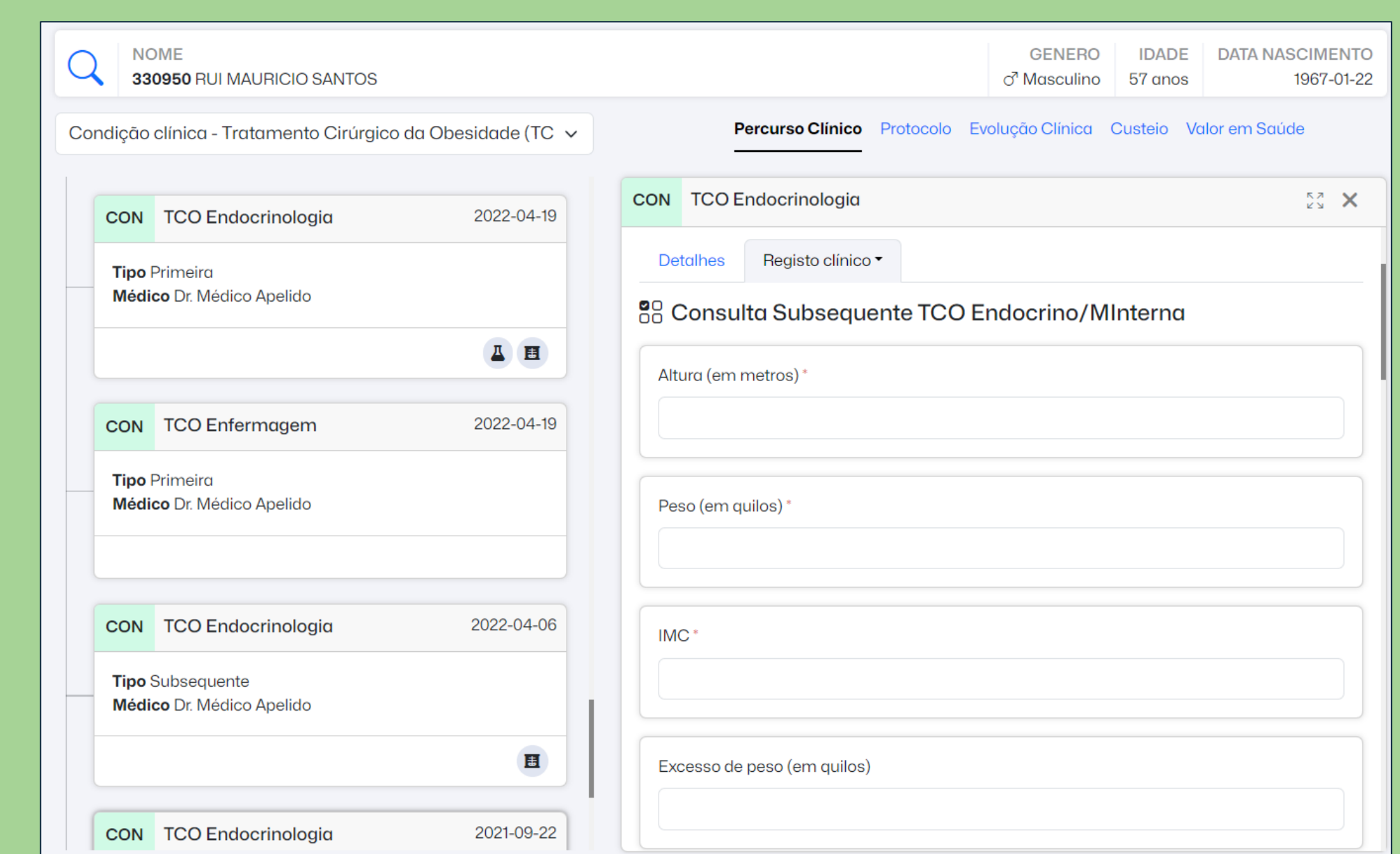


CONCLUSIONS

This project highlights the **importance of co-creation processes** in developing standardized sets of measures for specific clinical conditions, especially when aiming to be recognized as a national benchmark for comparison purposes.

During the process of elaborating the standard set and framework, it became evident that despite the inherent differences in institutional practices and routines, **a common path and goal persists**. The differences identified provide opportunities for **learning and improvement**, fostering an ecosystem for exploration and progress.

The standard set will be implemented in the VBHC digital platform in 2024



Digitalization of clinical journey and structured forms for CROs collection



Clinical evolution dashboard

NEXT STEPS

By consolidating the results into a **scalable digital solution**, this project has the potential to set a standard for **managing bariatric surgery pathways worldwide**, enabling reliable comparisons between different institutions on a benchmarking platform.