

Press release of 13 September 2021

Groupe Mutuel, the University Hospital Basel and Hôpital de la Tour are developing a pricing system based on the quality and added value of healthcare services.

Martigny, 13 September 2021. As part of a pilot project, Groupe Mutuel, the University Hospital Basel and Hôpital de la Tour are jointly developing an innovative pricing system based on the value of healthcare services provided to patients in orthopaedics and urology. On 6 September 2021, a partnership to this effect was concluded between the three institutions. The project is part of the Value-Based Healthcare (VBHC) approach, which aims to provide value-added and high-quality healthcare services to patients.

An innovative pricing system for patients

The project aims to develop and assess healthcare reimbursement models that drive providers to deliver medical services that offer the best outcome for patients and stimulate continuous improvement within medical and nursing teams. Models will be developed for two types of interventions: hip replacement surgery and the treatment of localised, non-metastatic prostate cancer (prostatectomy and radiotherapy).

In order to measure the quality of these interventions, the partners will rely, among other things, on data from questionnaires relating to health outcomes reported by patients. This involves asking patients directly to report their appreciation of their health and quality of life before and after a treatment. The efficiency of the care provided will also be assessed based on a cost-benefit analysis. Wherever possible, data will be analysed throughout the patient's medical journey since the outcome of a treatment depends on several service providers and their coordination.

Rewarding quality, not quantity

The project was designed using the Value-Based Healthcare approach, which aims to provide patients with high-quality and efficient healthcare. A pricing system that rewards quality based on medical outcomes, rather than quantity, helps to foster this approach, which is based on the systematic measurement of medical outcomes and their impact on patients' quality of life. The aim to maximise quality and efficiency in the provision of healthcare perfectly reflects the criteria of "efficiency, appropriateness and cost-effectiveness" that are the pillars of our health system.

"Thanks to this pilot project, we wish to demonstrate that pricing based on the added value of healthcare is one of the levers for putting the best individual treatment results at the centre of our health system", said Daniel Volken, Deputy Director at Groupe Mutuel.

This approach is now being favoured by many organisations, including hospitals, health insurers and the pharmaceutical industry. The Hôpital de la Tour and the University Hospital Basel are already working with Johnson & Johnson and Roche.

A unique partnership with leading hospitals in order to measure health outcomes

The development of innovative pricing models, which place the focus on quality and individual patients, required the creation of a unique partnership between a health insurer, Groupe Mutuel, and healthcare providers, University Hospital Basel and Hôpital de La Tour. The project partners will be able to draw on their respective expertise to assess the potential of incentive-based pricing.

"We are convinced that this project will make it possible to anchor the value-based healthcare approach in daily practice", said Dr Florian Rüter of the University Hospital Basel. This institution is a pioneer in measuring patient-reported medical outcomes in Switzerland. Since 2017, the hospital has been systematically collecting patient-reported outcomes for breast cancer patients and also for nineteen other medical conditions. Hôpital de La Tour measures the medical outcomes for orthopaedic patients as well as for oncology patients. In both Basel and Meyrin (Geneva), the data collected helps medical staff to improve the quality of healthcare and to better communicate with their patients. "This collaboration supports our strategy of holding the hospital accountable for patient outcomes, medical excellence and continuous improvement. The VBHC approach serves the long-term interests of both patients seeking the best possible medical care and our health system in its search of efficiency", concludes Rodolphe Eurin, Director of Hôpital de La Tour. Thanks to the support of the Fondation Groupe Mutuel, the project is also supported by the "Health Economics" chair at the University of Basel, under the direction of Professor Stefan Felder.

About Groupe Mutuel

With over 2,700 employees throughout Switzerland, Groupe Mutuel is at the service of 1.3 million private customers and 25,500 companies.

As the only multi-line insurer in Switzerland, Groupe Mutuel is the reference partner in the field of health and retirement benefits for private and corporate customers. Its turnover exceeds CHF 5.4 billion. Thanks to tailored solutions, whether for basic insurance (LAMal/KVG) or supplemental insurance (LCA/VVG), it is the 3rd largest health insurer in Switzerland. Groupe Mutuel also offers an extensive range of products for individual retirement benefits and patrimony insurance. Based in Martigny, the insurer provides companies of all sizes with solutions such as loss of earnings in the event of illness, accident insurance (LAA/UVG) and occupational pension plans (LPP/BVG). In the field of health insurance for companies, Groupe Mutuel is ranked 5th nationwide.

Media contact person

Serkan Isik – Head of Media Relations for German-speaking Switzerland
Office 058 758 90 05, Mobile 079 788 95 83, sisik@groupemutuel.ch

About University Hospital Basel

The University Hospital Basel is the central hub in the healthcare system for north-west Switzerland. Our patients are the focus of our activities. Our doctors, nurses and therapists work together to improve people's lives based on the latest scientific findings and with state-of-the-art medical equipment. Around 7,500 excellently trained employees provide a wide range of services, from basic healthcare to highly specialised medicine, around the clock, 365 days a year. The University Hospital Basel is one of the leading medical centres in Switzerland with high and internationally recognised standard and treats around 40,000 inpatients every year. In addition, the hospital has more than one million outpatient contacts, as well as excellent research in almost all areas of medical science.

Media contact person

Nicolas Drechsler, Head of Communications

Tel. 061 328 65 02, Mobile 076 332 01 28, nicolas.drechsler@usb.ch

About Hôpital de La Tour

The medical facilities of Hôpital de La Tour are of high quality, private and independent and offer acute care services on a human scale. Anchored in its mission to restore the best possible quality of life for its patients, Hôpital de La Tour has placed continuous improvement and the development of medical excellence at the heart of its priorities. Dedicated doctors and competent nursing staff as well as infrastructure equipped with the latest technology support these objectives. It is the only private establishment in French-speaking Switzerland with an emergency service open 24/7, intensive care and continuous care, as well as internal medicine and pneumonology services for acute care. It also has a neonatal intermediate care unit and the Swiss Olympic Medical Center for sports medicine.

Hôpital de La Tour is well recognised in the hospital planning of the canton of Geneva and, in some cases, also welcomes patients who do not have supplemental insurance. Outpatient consultations are available to all persons insured with basic health insurance (LAMal/KVG).

Hôpital de la Tour in figures, per year: 7,500 inpatients, 339,000 outpatients, including 39,000 emergencies, 6,600 surgical procedures, 52 doctors trained in 11 medical disciplines, 1,100 employees, 511 active registered doctors.

More information on www.latour.ch

Media contact person

Chiara di Lella, Head of Communications

Tel. 022 719 76 43 – chiara.di_lella@latour.ch