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3.5 Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine: Clinical Scope – Outcomes of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Programs

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INTRODUCTION

Outcomes have always been important in medicine because doctors care about what finally happens to their patients.

Outcomes determine the continuation or termination of treatments and this was true also in the ancient, fully experience- and tradition-based medicine. In the actual modern evidence-based medicine outcomes are even more important, since they drive health systems at all levels: micro (patients' direct care), meso (health services), and macro (health policies). The physical and rehabilitation medicine (PRM) specialty is an integral part of this evolution and must be based on well-defined outcomes, on one side to provide good treatments, services, and policies, on the other to be well recognized and identified among the other specialities and by health-care providers and politicians.

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