

CBM 95-8

Critical Pathways

January 1988 through December 1995
753 Citations

Prepared by

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Public Health Service
National Institutes of Health

National Library of Medicine
Reference Section
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20894

1995

National Library of Medicine Cataloging in Publication

Gordner, Ronald L.

Critical pathways : January 1988 through December 1995 :
753 citations / prepared by Ronald L. Gordner, Patricia
Moritz. -- Bethesda, Md. (8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda
20894) : U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Public
Health Service, National Institutes of Health, National
Library of Medicine, Reference Section ; Pittsburgh, PA :
Sold by the Supt. of Docs., U.S. G.P.O., 1995.
-- (Current bibliographies in medicine ; 95-8)

1. Critical Pathways - bibliography 2. Managed Care
Programs - bibliography I. Moritz, Patricia. II. National
Library of Medicine (U.S.). Reference Section III. Title
IV. Series

02NLM: ZW 1 N272 no.95-8

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Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through September 30, 1996.

CRITICAL PATHWAYS

With the ongoing changes in the health care system, strategies have been developed to facilitate the management and delivery of quality clinical care in a time of constrained resources. Critical pathways have emerged as one such strategy--one that is becoming increasingly important as more patient-focused care is emphasized and as managed care grows. Having initially been developed for use in hospitals, they are now being used in other clinical areas, such as home care. The term critical pathway was chosen for use in this bibliography because it is currently the term more frequently used for clinical pathways, care or clinical maps, clinical trajectories, and integrated plans of care.

Critical pathways are plans for the provision of clinical services that have expected time frames and resources targeted to specific diagnoses and/or procedures. The targeted clinical services are frequently those that are high in volume and resource use and, therefore, costly. Critical pathways are usually interdisciplinary in focus, merging the medical and nursing plans of care with those of other disciplines, such as physical therapy, nutrition, or mental health. Essentially, critical pathways can be viewed as interdisciplinary practice guidelines with predetermined standards of care. They provide opportunities for collaborative practice and team approaches that can maximize the expertise of multiple disciplines. These pathways prospectively and directly link clinical care activities and their costs with predetermined time points and outcomes. When benchmarks are incorporated into the pathways, they could facilitate clinical evaluation, especially evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of treatments and intervention strategies. Of concern is that during the literature search for this bibliography, few studies of pathways were found.

Originally, critical pathways began with admission and ended with discharge from the hospital. Now as they are being used in other settings, there is the potential for pathways to be focused more on the full range of an episode of care rather than on a fragment that is setting dependent. Such changes were considered in determining the framework for this bibliography. The selection of publications are categorized by the predominant clinical condition, setting or area of emphasis; such as cardiovascular care, pain management, home health care, patient teaching and consumer health, or ambulatory care. Nursing care does not have a separate heading because nursing is integrated into almost every category. This represents the leadership that nursing has provided in the development and growth of critical pathways and in the increasing recognition of their importance to high quality cost effective care. The overview section includes historical, classic, and review articles. Articles that were multi-faceted by clinical area, setting, or discipline are listed in all pertinent categories.

This bibliography surveyed the medical literature in all languages from January 1988 through December 1995; however; no pertinent foreign language articles were found. Journal articles, books, book chapters, conference papers, meeting abstracts, dissertations, theses, and audiovisuals are included. Arrangement of the bibliography is by subject and citations within each category are listed alphabetically by author. Citations may be indexed to more than one category.

A number of Internet sites (not included in this bibliography) created by clinical settings and vendors that address critical pathways may also be found by utilizing various wide world web searching tools. Three examples of these wide world web sites and their URLs (uniform resource locations) at the time of this publication are: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Health Services Research Home Page (<http://www.csmc.edu/hsr>); The Center for Health Education's STATpath Interdisciplinary Plans of Care page (<http://www.statpath.com>); and the VNA First

Home Page of the Visiting Nurse Associations and Community Nurse Services (<http://www.interaccess.com/VNAFIRST>).

The compilers wish to thank Carol A. Vollmer, Information Resource Specialist, The Quality Management Institute, A National Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Durham, NC who contributed additional citations for the final bibliography.

SEARCH STRATEGY

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- SS 1 = CRITICAL PATHWAYS
- SS 2 = CLINICAL ADJ PATH# OR CLINICAL ADJ PATHWAY: OR CRITICAL ADJ PATH# OR CRITICAL ADJ PATHWAY:
- SS 3 = CARE ADJ MAP# OR CARE ADJ MAPP: OR ALL CAREMAP: (TW)
- SS 4 = RECOVERY ADJ PATH# OR RECOVERY ADJ PATHWAY: OR CLINICAL ADJ TRAJECTOR:
- SS 5 = MULTIDISCIPLINARY ADJ ACTION ADJ PLAN:
- SS 6 = CARE ADJ PATH# OR CARE ADJ PATHWAY:
- SS 7 = 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 OR 5 OR 6
- SS 8 = CLINICAL NEAR PATH# OR CLINICAL NEAR PATHWAY: OR CRITICAL NEAR PATH# OR CRITICAL NEAR PATHWAY:
- SS 9 = RECOVERY NEAR PATH# OR RECOVERY NEAR PATHWAY:
- SS 10 = CARE NEAR MAP# OR CARE NEAR MAPP: OR CLINICAL NEAR TRAJECTOR: OR RECOVERY NEAR MAP# OR RECOVERY NEAR MAPP:
- SS 11 = STANDARDIZ: NEAR CARE OR STANDARDIZ: NEAR PATH# OR STANDARDIZ: NEAR PATHWAY:
- SS 12 = 8 OR 9 OR 10 OR 11
- SS 13 = 12 AND EXP NURSING RESEARCH OR 12 AND EXP NURSING PROCESS OR 12 AND PATIENT-CENTERED CARE OR 12 AND LENGTH OF STAY
- SS 14 = 12 AND QUALITY CONTROL OR 12 AND EXP PATIENT CARE TEAM OR 12 AND TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT OR 12 AND PATIENT CARE PLANNING
- SS 15 = 12 AND CLINICAL PROTOCOLS OR 12 AND PRACTICE GUIDELINES OR 12 AND PRACTICE GUIDELINE (PT)
- SS 16 = 12 AND EC (SH) OR 12 AND EXP ECONOMICS OR 12 AND DIAGNOSIS-RELATED GROUPS OR 12 AND EXP N4.761
- SS 17 = 13 OR 14 OR 15 OR 16
- SS 18 = 7 OR 17

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SAMPLE CITATIONS

Citations in this bibliographic series are formatted according to the rules established for *Index Medicus*^{®*}. Sample journal and monograph citations appear below. For journal articles written in a foreign language, the English translation of the title is placed in brackets; for monographs, the title is given in the original language. In both cases the language of publication is shown by a three letter abbreviation appearing at the end of the citation.

Journal Article:

Authors *Article Title*

Sprouse MW, Whitmore BC. Developing a hospital policy for clinical pathways.
J Healthc Qual 1995 Nov-Dec;17(6):40-51.

Abbreviated Journal Title *Date* *Volume* *Issue* *Pages*

Monograph:

Authors/Editors *Title*

Ignatavicius DD, Hausman KA. Clinical pathways for collaborative practice.
Philadelphia: Saunders; 1995. 362 p.

Place of Publication *Publisher* *Date* *Total No. of Pages*

*For details of the formats used for references, see the following publication:

Patrias, Karen. *National Library of Medicine recommended formats for bibliographic citation*. Bethesda (MD): The Library; 1991 Apr. Available from: NTIS, Springfield, VA; PB91-182030.

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