Route Health Information Systems – Rehabilitation toolkit

Information sheet

What is the Routine Health Information Systems (RHIS)?
RHIS collect health service data directly from the health facilities, provided by the health care workers. They provide frequent (e.g. monthly) and real-time information on service performance and quality at all levels of the health system, enabling regular progress monitoring and timely identification of problems. RHIS create an integrated environment for programme specific and cross-cutting data use.

Why is the strengthening of Routine Health Information Systems (RHIS) for rehabilitation needed?
Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems requires considerable planning and decision-making in countries and this should be underpinned by timely and quality data and information. Routine facility reporting for rehabilitation through RHIS enables regular assessment and analysis of the rehabilitation sector capacity and performance to inform decision-making. In order to respond to population needs, decision-makers can answer most common monitoring and evaluation questions for rehabilitation with RHIS data.

Rehabilitation facility managers and programme planners can use the data to support the establishment and follow-up of real-time measures regarding accessibility, availability, human resources, quality, and service outcomes.
What is the Routine Health Information Systems – Rehabilitation toolkit?
The WHO Rehabilitation Programme has developed a set of standard indicators that guide the collection of aggregate data from facilities. These indicators are listed in the ‘Guidance on the Analysis and Use of Routine Health Information Systems – Rehabilitation Module’ document, along with a framework for their analysis, a standard dashboard and considerations for their interpretation. Indicators have been grouped into 3 subsets: one subset of indicators that applies to all facility types, one for primary care facilities and one for dedicated rehabilitation wards.

The toolkit also comes with a digital package developed with District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) at University of Oslo to facilitate implementation, reporting, analysis, and quality assurance of data. The DHIS2 is an open-source software, and the package is downloadable from their website. However, some countries may have their own electronic platform; this can be adapted based on the proposed rehabilitation metadata.

Finally, a training resource for rehabilitation data analysis and data entry will be made available. This resource provides training material to conduct a training session with 2 target audiences:
1. data analysts and managers, for decision-making at (sub)national, programme and facility level, and
2. data entry staff, for data capture and entry at facility level.

Why use the Routine Health Information Systems – Rehabilitation toolkit?
The toolkit serves as a global standard to guide Member States to capture information from health facilities that reflects the status of rehabilitation services in the country. The data collection for standard indicators will facilitate the development and monitoring of national priorities and a strategy for rehabilitation to increasingly integrate into the health system and to ensure universal health coverage (UHC) is achieved.

How is the Routine Health Information Systems – Rehabilitation toolkit implemented?
Implementation commonly involves multiples stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health rehabilitation unit and Health Information Systems Programme (HISP) team, rehabilitation service providers, and country partners. With the support of WHO, the Ministry of Health leads a process that includes a readiness assessment for routine facility reporting for rehabilitation, the development of a country indicator set, defining standard operating procedures, the adaptation of the standard DHIS2 digital package or country electronic platform to the rehabilitation routine reporting system, and a training for rehabilitation data analysis and data entry.
Multi-stakeholder engagement (MoH, WHO, rehabilitation service providers, country partners, ...)

Readiness assessment for routine facility reporting, including baseline of rehabilitation data collection

Development of country indicator set and definition guide through consultative process

Adaptation of DHIS2 digital package or country electronic platform to national rehabilitation routine reporting system

Development of standard operating procedure, registers and tally sheets

Training in data entry and data management

Implementation of RHIS for rehabilitation in selected health facilities

Capture of lessons learnt and periodic data quality reviews

For further information, please contact:
WHO Rehabilitation Programme
rehabilitation@who.int