

## 7.1\_E

**Integrated care pathway (ICP)**

An integrated care pathway (ICP) shows \_\_\_\_\_ anticipated patient care within a given time frame for someone with a specific condition or diagnosis. ICPs make it easier for a hospital to \_\_\_\_\_ situations where different departments are responsible for delivering patient care.

\_\_\_\_\_ the process involves setting up a multidisciplinary team, including healthcare professionals, managers and community service providers. The team decides on the priorities for the development of ICPs within the hospital. \_\_\_\_\_, clinicians \_\_\_\_\_ their own priorities and discuss the practical implications with their staff. \_\_\_\_\_ their feedback, several possible options are identified and developed into a draft pathway. Feedback from patients and clinicians is then used to make a final decision on which ICPs will provide the greatest benefit and therefore be fully implemented.

According to the research, there are \_\_\_\_\_ advantages and disadvantages of using ICPs. \_\_\_\_\_ the disadvantages, the relationship between healthcare professional and patient becomes less personal with the ICP, and there is less contact time, which could sometimes lead to incorrect diagnosis. The advantages outweigh the disadvantages, however. ICPs mean greater consistency of care between \_\_\_\_\_ healthcare professionals, a reduction in the risk of errors and, as a result, an increase in patient safety.

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## Answers

**Integrated care pathway (ICP)**

An integrated care pathway (ICP) shows the development of anticipated patient care within a given time frame for someone with a specific condition or diagnosis. ICPs make it easier for a hospital to deal with situations where different departments are responsible for delivering patient care.

The beginning of the process involves setting up a multidisciplinary team, including healthcare professionals, managers and community service providers. The team decides on the priorities for the development of ICPs within the hospital. At the same time, clinicians bear in mind their own priorities and discuss the practical implications with their staff. Based on their feedback, several possible options are identified and developed into a draft pathway. Feedback from patients and clinicians is then used to make a final decision on which ICPs will provide the greatest benefit and therefore be fully implemented.

According to the research, there are a variety of advantages and disadvantages of using ICPs. From the point of view of the disadvantages, the relationship between healthcare professional and patient becomes less personal with the ICP, and there is less contact time, which could sometimes lead to incorrect diagnosis. The advantages outweigh the disadvantages, however. ICPs mean greater consistency of care between a number of healthcare professionals, a reduction in the risk of errors and, as a result, an increase in patient safety.