





- Provides uniquely practical end-to-end measurement, analytics, corrective action, change management and value tracking solutions for operational and people productivity.
- Offers unique and patented industrial solutions.
- Has built an experienced and highly qualified team that includes internationally recognised thought leaders.
- Is the preferred supplier for respected, industry-leading multinationals.
- Achieves higher than 95% renewal rates.

# The Long Covid Challenge

"A Novel virus can make a fool of even experts" (sic)

— Dr Peter Hotez





17, 26, 31, 33 34, 35,46,49, 55, 56,62

#### The whole workforce at risk

Covid-19 is a new risk that affects the whole workforce

### Challenges

~25%

#### An Undefined risk

Where are still not certain which percentage of patients will have significant impact on their work from Long Covid

15

### Multiple Stakeholders, Multiple conditions

Complex stakeholder map will result in uncoordinated care

80 /d

### Lack of capacity

During surges and waves clinical teams are focused on acute care





## **PASC: Main treatment challenges**

?

### Fatigue/ME/CFS

Case definition US Academy of Sciences is symptoms for 6 months. No clear biomarkers

4.8%

### **Pulmonary complications**

Many with significant interstitial lung disease, not linked to initial severity

49%

### **Neurology**

Younger patients more likely to have altered mental status, where stroke is more common in those above 60



# **Care Pathways**

"If you want the long road to success, do it all by yourself."

— James Jean-Pierre



### Systems-centered design

#### Top-down method of design

Focus on the systemic controls and processes to prevent errors

### Safety focused approach

The basic premise in the system approach is that humans are fallible, and errors are to be expected, even in the best organisations



Institutes of Medicine (IOM) published a powerful report entitled, "To Err is Human," in 1999 which fuelled an already growing shift from viewing errors as problems of individuals to problems of systems



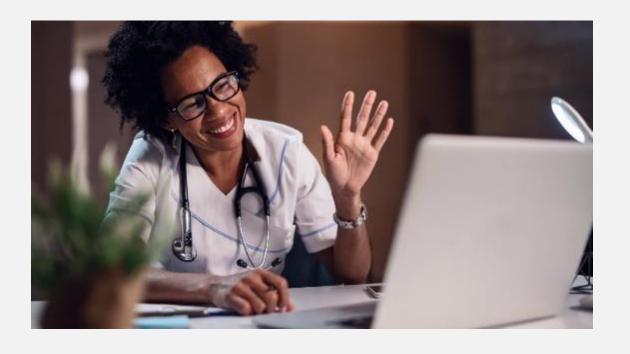
### User-centered design

#### **Bottom-up design**

User-centered design is a technique used in the field of engineering that prioritises the relevant characteristics of a product user throughout the design of a product.

Widely used in medical engineering, health information management, and web design

More recent development is human centered design that takes to complex set of behaviors into consideration



The term 'user-centered design' was coined by Donald Norman and became widely adopted after he published *User-Centered System Design: New Perspectives on Human- Computer Interaction* in 1986 and then *The Psychology Of Everyday Things* in 1988



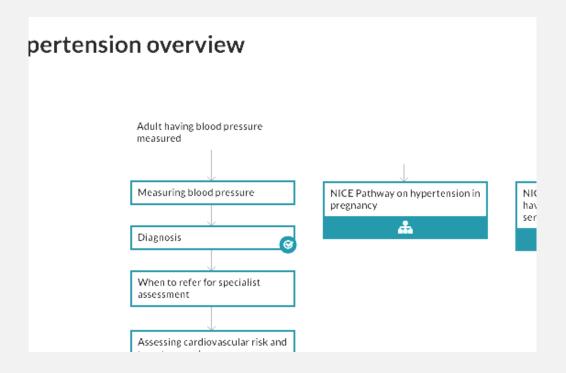
### The Care pathways approach

#### Combines system and user-centered design

A care pathway is a healthcare management tool based on healthcare plans for a specific group of patients with a predictable clinical course, in which the different tasks or interventions by the professionals involved

### **Developed for multi-disciplinary care**

The main goal of care pathways is based on the improvement of the following areas: quality in healthcare, coordination/cooperation among professionals, efficiency and patient satisfaction.



The care pathway concept appeared for the first time in 1985 inspired by Karen Zander and Kathleen Bower at the New England Medical Center in Boston (Massachusetts, USA).



### Committee

#### Plan approval and review together

- Set target pathway
- Set goals and outcomes
- Define inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Approval and budget

### Resourcing

#### Multi-disciplinary and external vs internal

- Define care teams
- Identify clinical as well as logistic staffing requirements
- Case management/Care-coordination central to resourcing

### **Mapping and SOPs**

#### Map journey of patient /employee and protocols

- Gather existing research and evidence
- Define entry and exit points
- Draw high level process
- Define sub processes
- Identify decision points and set criteria
- Develop SOPs to align with the care pathway
- Map to digital systems if capacity available

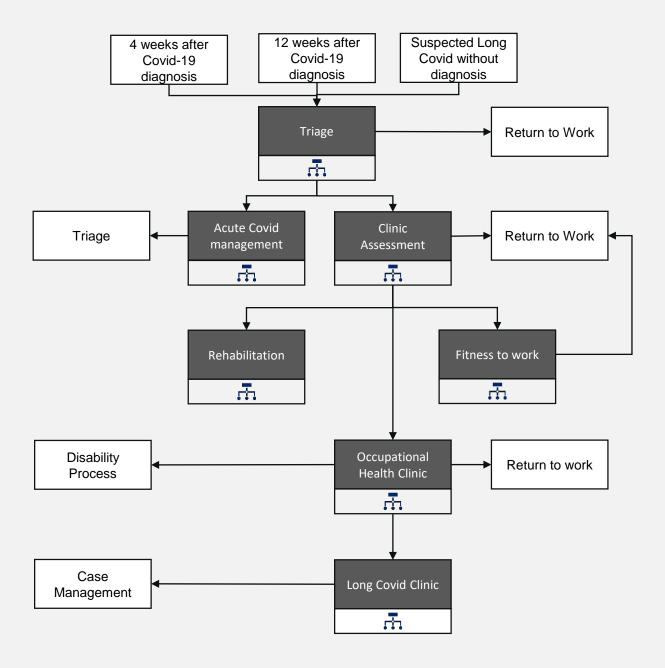


## **Practical Example**

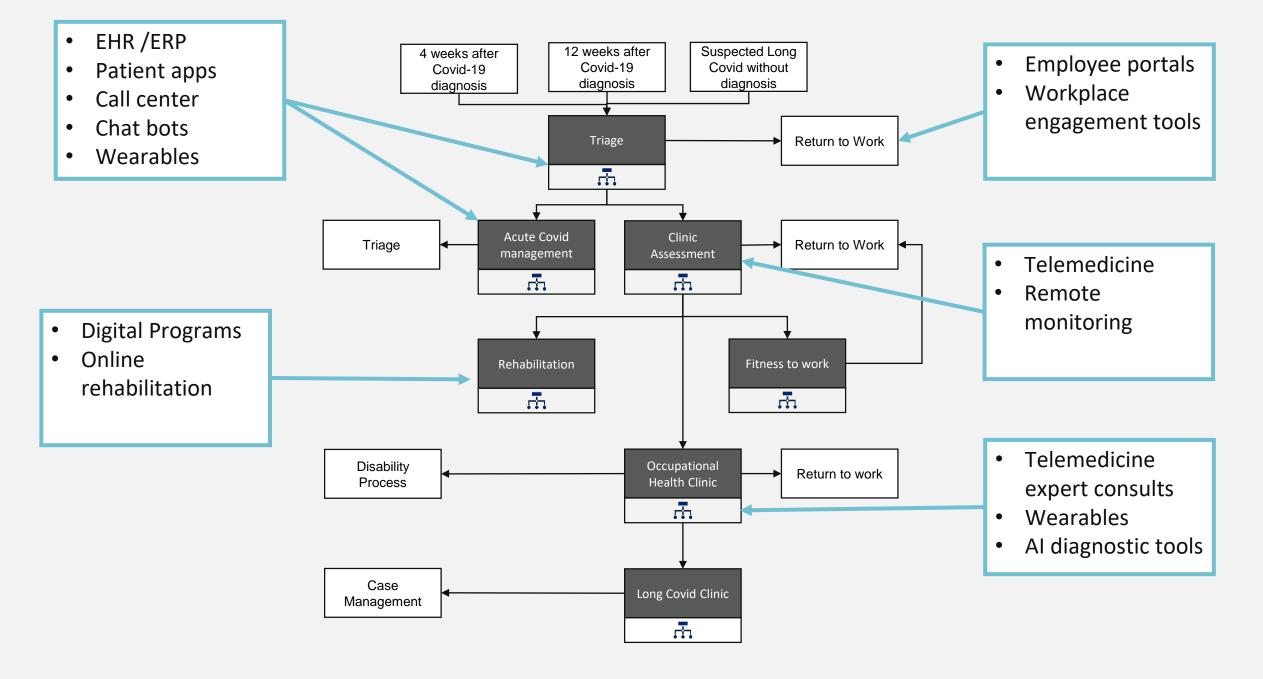
"Be practical as well as generous in your ideals. Keep your eyes on the stars, but remember to keep your feet on the ground."

— Theodore Roosevelt











### Conclusion

- There are more cases of long covid than expected.
- New variants will affect younger patients
- Management requires a care co-ordination approach.
- The ME/CFS overlap will be a long term challenge
- Use care pathways to map your workplace programme align for the employee and the system.
- Work in a team to get sign off and buy in
- There are already excellent tools and providers available to help with parts of the process.







www.stonethree.com

Dr W Kleynhans: William.kleynhans@stonethree.com

+27 21 851 3123

info@stonethree.com

24 Gardner Williams Avenue

Paardevlei Somerset West

South Africa 7130