

Workshops

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Exchanging clinical guidelines and standards

B.T. Espersen. *Aarhus Kommunehospital, Oncology, D-ambulatorium, Aarhus, Denmark*

Most of our clinical nursing care is still based on tradition, experience, common sense and intuition. But for quite a few years now we have tried to raise the quality of our nursing care through evidence-based clinical guidelines and standards.

In this workshop our assumption is that clinical guidelines and standards improve the nursing care as well as the outcome of the care. Consequently this issue is not the main topic.

Working out and using guidelines and standards requires new skills both from the leaders and the nurses in the clinical practice.

It's very time consuming and it also takes a lot of work to implement them in the daily clinical practice.

I will assert that:

When we work out guidelines and standards we have a tendency to start from the very beginning, sometimes without trying too hard to find relevant existing material. Perhaps we don't know how or where to look.

When we have worked out a guideline or a standard we often keep it to ourselves – not intentionally, but we don't automatically publish our work, so that other wards and hospitals in our country – and outside our own country if possible – can profit from the work already done.

(These assertions will be discussed during the workshop).

Purpose: To define and agree upon: - What's a clinical guideline?

- What's a standard?

- How do we use them in clinical practice?

- What do we gain by using them?

To give the participants inspiration and ideas to work with guidelines and standards.

To give the participants an opportunity to make a strategy for exchanging guidelines and standards in their hospital, and their country – and if possible also internationally.

To discuss and (hopefully) get some answers to the following questions:

- How do we exchange clinical guidelines and standards? In our hospital, in our country and internationally?

- Where do we find inspiration?

- Which skills are needed to search for inspiration, working out guidelines and implementing them?

- What barriers could there be – and how do we overcome these barriers?

To give the participants an opportunity to bring up any issue about clinical guidelines and standards.

To give the participants a list of possible websites where they can find information about guidelines and standards.

Workshop methodology: After a presentation the workshop will be divided into several smaller groups in order to enable the participants to discuss and learn from and inspire each other.

They will:

- Look at their own practice

- Listen to the experience of others

- Find the positive things – what's working

- Find the barriers – what's needed

Examples of guidelines and standards will be shown.

Participants are very welcome to bring their own examples to illustrate and also inspire the other participants.

Conclusion: Conclusions will be summed up at the end of the workshop.

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Implementing evidence based guidelines for radiotherapy

M.T. Bate. *University Hospital, Department of Radiotherapy, Gent, Belgium*

Evidence-based care concerns the incorporation of evidence from research, clinical expertise, and patient preferences into decisions about the health care of individual patients. Why has research-based practice become so important and why is everyone talking about evidence-based health care? But most importantly, how is nursing best placed to maximise the benefits. Guidelines are "systematically developed statements to assist practitioner decisions about appropriate health care for specific circumstances". Guidelines can be used to reduce variations in practice and to promote the delivery of high quality of care. Outcome of the workshop: On the basis of practical guidelines discuss - the sort of evidence nurses need, - where to find the "systematically developed statements", - implementing the guidelines, how to deal with some misconceptions.

Conclusions: Will evidence-based nursing make practice perfect?