

276: STANDARDS FOR HEALTH PROMOTION IN HOSPITALS: DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, RESULTS OF PILOT TEST AND USE AS A SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL IN EUROPEAN HOSPITALS

Gröne, O., Jorgensen S.J.

Objective:

The purpose of the project was to develop standards for health promotion and disease prevention in hospitals in order to fill the current gap in existing hospital standard sets and to provide member hospitals of the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals with a self-assessment tool.

Methods:

The working group followed the recommendations of the ALPHA programme for the development of standards:

- May 2001: Critical literature review. Result: existing standard sets only marginally address the issue of health promotion in hospitals. Establishment of a WHO working group to develop standards for health promotion in hospitals.
- May 2002: Proposal of first draft of standards and expert workshop for their review, Bratislava, Slovakia.
- May 2002: Presentation and discussion of draft standards to the Workshop of National and Regional Network Coordinators, International Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals, Bratislava, Slovakia.
- November 2002: Expert workshop to revise 2nd draft of standards, Barcelona, Spain.
- December 2002: Development of standards review-form for pilot test and presentation of the standard set to international accreditation agencies and other bodies involved in quality improvement in health care.
- January 2003-March 2003: Pilot test of standards in 34 hospitals of nine European countries.
- April 2003: Expert workshop: final review of standards and planning of self-assessment procedure, Barcelona, Spain.
- May 2003: Presentation of standards for health promotion in hospitals at 11th International Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals, Florence, Italy (www.univie.ac.at/hph/florence2003).
- May 2003: Setting up of WHO working group to develop online self-assessment tool.

Results:

The main European experts in health promotion and in standard development have contributed to elaborating the standard set for health promotion in hospitals. The final set of five standards, which has been piloted in 34 hospitals in nine European countries, addresses the issues of management policy; Patient assessment, -information and -intervention; promoting a healthy workplace and continuity and cooperation. The standards relate to patient pathways and define the responsibilities and activities concerning health promotion as an integral part of all services offered to patients in every hospital. Each standard consists of a standard formulation, objective, definition of criteria and measurable elements.

Piloting hospitals found the standards to be relevant and applicable. Feedback from the pilot testing was used for the further refinement of standards. Feedback from accreditation bodies and other quality agencies was positive and the standards are now being published by WHO. The development of an online self-assessment tool has been decided, linked to the existing International Database of Health Promoting Hospitals allowing for a self-assessment of the more than 650 hospitals within the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals using the developed standards set.

Conclusions:

The working group has achieved its objective to develop standards for health promotion in hospitals. The development process was based on methodological sound guidelines and the five resulting standards have proved to be relevant and applicable to international accreditation organizations, hospital managers and clinicians. Hospitals being members of the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals will use the standards for an annual

self-assessment. The existing information in the HPH database set up in 1999 will allow to link self-assessment to hospital details and country.

Gröne, O. & Jorgensen, SJ. Health promotion in hospitals – a quality issue in health care. *European Journal of Public Health*, [submitted]