

Finnish Patient Safety Strategy 2009 – 2013

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PATIENT SAFETY
High quality health care in Finland

Finnish patient safety strategy 2009-2013

- This is the first patient safety (PS) strategy in Finland
- It was drawn up by a network of experts
 - The major part represented various fields healthcare
 - Also experts on reserach on safety were participating



Finnish patient safety strategy 2009-2013

- The network was established in 2006 and its working groups jointly promoted the document in December 2008
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health published the document on January 2009
- The promotion took place at a national conference with a great number of participants



Mission

- The slogan is :
 - **We are promoting patient safety together**
 - This indicates that patient safety is the result of co-operation between
 - Health care staff
 - Health care promoters
 - Patients
 - Relatives of patients
 - Research



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Vision

- Patient safety will be an organic part of health care on all levels
- Care of patients and customers of health and social care has to be safe and effective



Towards a new culture

- The utmost goal is to create a culture that allows errors, near misses and harms to be identified, reported and processed in an open no-blame atmosphere and with the object of learning and improvement
- This is a hard task and may be that only new generations have the capacity to reach that goal



Safety culture and leadership

- Adapting a new culture is part of leadership
 - We have the task of convincing the health care leaders that they are responsible for creating the optimal, open environment to deal with errors and harm
 - Leaders together with all health care professionals shall increase their responsibility of quality and safety



Role of patients

- We want to encourage patients and clients to take part in developing the patient safety aspect
 - Patients and clients should be aware of their rights to know about safety risks
 - Patients and clients should be provided with checklists and other material to be used at the encounter with professionals
 - They should be encouraged to take actively part in their care



Legislation

- It is essential to consider patient safety in health care legislation
- Legislation, however, only forms the framework
- There are already a number of supporting laws
- The two most important are:
 - Patient injuries act 1986
 - Act on status and rights of patients 1992
- But - creation of a new culture is not a top-down procedure



Bottom-up approach

- The creation of an
 - *”open, actively reporting, no-blame, learning from errors”* - culture depends on intrinsic activities of health care professionals
 - from the grass roots to the responsive and operational management



Main objectives

- Patients are actively involved in improving PS
- PS is managed proactively and through learning
- PS incidents are reported and learned from
- PS is promoted by adequate resources
- PS is part of health care research and teaching



Objectives

- According to the strategy the objectives shall be met by the year 2013
- The National Institute of Health and Welfare shall have a central role in
 - The practical implementation
 - The development of methods and equipment
 - Promoting research
 - Monitoring PS events and progress



The Finnish patient safety society

- The society was founded in february this year by PS enthusiasts and some major health care associations
- The society plans to be an actor at PS
 - through its members who are distributed round the country
 - by means of a program with functioning educational objectives
 - by acting as an advocate of professionalistic approach to PS



Summary

- In Finland the first steps are taken towards a comprehensive patient safety strategy
- Focus will be on creating a new culture through multiprofessional acting at all levels of health care and nationwide
- The main elements are teaching, learning and taking responsibility



Summary

- Objectives will be targeted by the year 2013
- The main national actor is the National Institute of Health and Welfare
- Considering this modest beginning, there is an increasing interest in patients safety:
 - Many people gathering at conferences
 - Writing and debate
 - The society is rapidly getting more members



