Quality goals in Health care
National goals in Denmark

Annemarie Lauritsen, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Danish Ministry of Health

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AGENDA

1. Introduction to the Danish Health Care System
2. Why focus on quality?
3. How to work with quality?
4. How to follow up?
5. Questions?
INTRODUCTION – KEY FACTS

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<th>Denmark</th>
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<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
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<td>Population (mn)</td>
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<td>Area (km²)</td>
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<td>Population density (/km²)</td>
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<td>Life expectancy (years)</td>
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INTRODUCTION - ORGANIZATION OF THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

National Level

Ministry of Health

Regional Level

5 Regions

Local Level

98 Municipalities
A DATA GOLD MINE OF HIGH QUALITY

- National Register of Patients from 1977
- Today, we have some of the most advanced national registries of data on population health.
NATIONAL MONITORING

Percentage of patients with cancer treated on time according to the Cancer Action Plan, 2013-2016

Average experienced waiting time for planned hospital surgery, days, 2001-2015

Kilde: Source: National Patient Registry
Why focus on quality?
WHY FOCUS ON QUALITY?

• Quality gap to similar countries
• Large differences in quality between regions and hospitals, e.g. waiting times, psychiatric treatment and rehabilitation
• The government wants to strengthen and rethink the national work regarding quality of healthcare to ensure that all patients experience the same high quality regardless of residence.
• We try to create a cultural change with more focus and transparency regarding effect and results and the patients wishes for treatment.

This calls for an increased transparency regarding differences and a wish to learn from the best.
**TRANSPARENCY REFORM – TRIPLE AIM, 2013**

**What?**

Political agreement in 2013 as a part of the financial agreement with the regions.

Based on three principles to ensure the vision: *Better health care through better use of data*

**Why?**

Better practice and knowledge sharing – what works and what doesn't?

Relevant and better documentation

Data should be shared and used – also across sectors and countries

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**Improving the health of the population**

- **Increased cost effectiveness**
- **Improved patient-experienced quality**
ONGOING WORK WITH DATA AND QUALITY IN THE DANISH MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- Transparency reform – Better and more use of data and benchmarking
  - Quality, transparency and data
- Development of quality indicators
  - Better care and quality, better value for money
- Health Data Programme
  - Strengthening the quality of and intersectoral collaboration on the use of data
- National Quality Programme
  - National goals
How to work with quality?

National goals in Denmark
NATIONAL GOALS IN THE DANISH HEALTH SECTOR

• National goals to set the desired overall direction for the health care sector
  – 8 politically decided goals agreed between government, regions and municipalities
  – 21 indicators have been selected to concretise the overall goals
    • Enables follow-ups on national and local levels
    • Continued development of new relevant indicators
8 NATIONAL GOALS AND 21 INDICATORS
• Ensures more coherence between the health care sectors
• E.g. monitoring (geographical differences) of acute readmissions

• Improves health care quality
• E.g. monitoring (geographical differences) five-year survival after cancer
HOW DO THE GOALS ADDRESS QUALITY – LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

• Local entrenchment across all sectors is essential
• This results in an increased freedom of methods for the health care professionals with regard to defining the initiatives that shall lift the quality of care for the patients
• The translation into local initiatives in the regions and municipalities will make the goals clinically relevant and lift the quality of care in the clinical environment
HOW DO THE GOALS ADDRESS QUALITY – LOCAL INVOLVEMENT
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW INDICATORS

• When relevant we include new indicators in the framework of the national goals
• In 2017 we will include two new indicators:
  – Retention and reintegration into the labour market
  – Dementia (rational use of medicine)
How to follow up?
HOW TO FOLLOW UP? – TRAFFIC LIGHTS

• Intensively political follow-ups
  – Indicator updates every six months
  – Yearly publication with focus on the local entrenchment and indicator development
  – Traffic light for benchmarking
Questions?
Thank you!

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