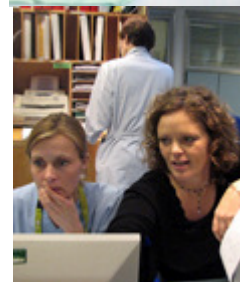


Operation Life



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On 16 April 2007, the Danish Society for Patient Safety launched its national patient safety campaign referred to as Operation Life. The campaign reached its end on 27 April 2009. The target group of the campaign included all Danish hospitals, and the goal was to prevent deaths through the implementation of six interventions. Operation Life included the collaboration partners of TrygFonden and the Danish Society for Patient Safety.

Background

In the United States, the renowned Institute for Healthcare Improvement has successfully completed a national campaign known as "100k lives Campaign", in which more than 3000 participating hospitals, through the implementation of six evidence-based interventions, have saved the lives of 122,300 patients in 18 months. In the UK and Canada, similar campaigns are being instituted based on the same clinical interventions.

Operation Life is inspired by both the British "Safer Patient Initiative" started by Health Foundation and the Canadian "Safer Healthcare Now!" carried out by Canadian Patient Safety Institute, but in particular IHI's "100,000 Lives Campaign" has been a source of inspiration.

Danish Society for Patient Safety wishes to thank and express gratitude to all of these international organizations and campaigns and especially Institute for Healthcare Improvement for generously sharing and making available all their knowledge, experience and campaign material to Operation Life.

Clinical interventions

- Calling a Rapid Response Team to patients showing evidence of deterioration.
- Prevention of adverse drug events by reconciling patient medications at every transition point in care.
- Prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia.

- Correct treatment of acute myocardial infarction.
- Prevention of central line infections.
- Correct treatment of sepsis, blood infections.

The interventions have been studied by an expert panel of Danish physicians and nurses and have been adjusted to comply with Danish guidelines and standards.

The goal of Operation Life was to:

Prevent 3,000 deaths

Make sure that all regions were represented in the campaign from the start

Make sure that 75% of the patients in somatic hospitals were covered by the campaign (once the campaign is closed)

The campaign was open to the regions/hospitals that wished to join, and registration could be made any time. There were no restrictions as to the type and number of interventions the regions/hospitals chose to implement.

Measures

Campaign results must be measured in terms of number of prevented deaths and using an obligatory indicator for each intervention package. The goal of the campaign was to prevent deaths and this was evidenced by monitoring the development (decline) in the national mortality rates at Danish hospitals in absolute figures. Mortality rates were collected on a national and regional level. The campaign also included the measurement of a Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratio (HSMR) on a national and regional level.

Organisation

A steering committee was appointed for Operation Life involving representatives from: Each of the five regions, Danish Regions, the Danish Medical Association, The Danish Nurses Organization, The Danish Rheumatism Association, TrygFonden, The National Board of Health and the Danish Society for Patient Safety.

Training programmes

Support was provided to the participants during the implementation phase, for instance in the form of "kick-off packages" (clinical guidelines, etc) for each intervention, data collection and outcome follow-up, establishment of network and activities for sharing experience. Also a training programme using the "breakthrough method" was provided as support for implementation and quality improvement. The participating hospitals appointed a number of teams consisting of 3-4 persons who were to undertake implementation at their own hospital, as well as training in the "breakthrough method" in a number of "workshops". Instructor training in the Breakthrough method was also provided.

IKAS and the Danish Quality Programme

The Danish Institute for Quality and Accreditation in Healthcare (IKAS) supported participation in Operation Life.

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