

Asking health care professionals about patient participation

– a questionnaire to facilitate local participation practice

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Introduction

Background

Patient participation is an important part of rehabilitation in recovery after spinal cord injury.

Successful patient participation results in:

- ✓ increased patient safety
- ✓ more satisfied patients
- ✓ economic benefits
- ✓ better professional results

Problem

Research has shown that nurses and doctors wish to involve patients in treatment, but they need more knowledge and concrete tools to support the effort.



Photo: Lisbeth Justesen

Methods

A project focusing on better patient participation was completed at the Spinal Cord Injury Centre of Western Denmark (SCICWD) and accordingly an online survey was conducted to measure the health professionals' view on patient participation.

The survey was developed and validated by DEFACTUM

Types of indicators:

Opinions
about
practice

Specific
possibilities
for actions

Experienced
barriers

Conclusion

Working with patient participation is an ongoing process where health professionals continually should be provided with feedback to discuss the meaning and content of the phenomenon.

From a quality improvement perspective the survey questions must be detailed and concrete.

Results

- Response rate: 70% (n=67)
- 83% responded that patients' participation in rehabilitation is part of the culture at SCICWD to a very high or a high extent.

Opinions about practice

- 65% found that the professionals succeed in converting patients' experiences and needs into solutions, which fit the individual patient
- 33% responded that SCICWD regularly discuss what it means to involve patients

Specific possibilities for actions

- 66% pointed at increased focus on what individual patients find important
- 61% emphasized a need to include relatives more

Experienced barriers

- 58% pointed at the time spent on registration as a barrier for involvement
- 44% answered that extra time needed for involvement was a barrier