

Integration of National Disease Management Guidelines into IT-based Quality Management Systems



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Background

The German National Disease Management Clinical Practice Guidelines Programme (DM-CPG-P) was established to link prevention, acute care, rehabilitation and chronic care for high priority healthcare topics. One implementation strategy aims at transferring the content of these guidelines into IT-based quality management systems (e.g. QEP®), the quality management system of the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians.

Objectives

- To meet legal requirements concerning quality management in health care.
- To align goals, structure and content of DM-CPGs and QEP®.
- To address the needs of potential users.
- To integrate the DM-CPGs quality management documents into the web presence of the DM-CPG-P.

Methods

Integration of the most relevant contents of DM-CPGs into the QEP® system was done in a stepwise procedure



National Disease Management Clinical Practice Guideline (DM-CPG)



4. Performance of usability tests.

3. Integration of DM-CPG content (e.g. algorithms) into QEP® .

2. Discussion and adaptation according to the requests of potential users.

1. Guideline and quality management developers identified the crucial goals, contents and documents.

Results

- Goals of guidelines were easy to link to quality management goals,
- Evidence-based guidelines could be integrated into a quality management system,
- Algorithms and therapy schemes could be transferred into quality management documents,
- Implementation tools like decision aids also proved to be simple to integrate into a quality management handbook.

Discussion

- Evidence-based workflows with emphasis on resolving problems at the interface of different health care sectors (DM-CPG) have a high potential of improving health care outcomes,
- Transfer of these algorithms and recommendations into a quality management system proved feasible,
- This may have a reasonable impact on implementation of the National Disease Management Guidelines and on quality of care,
- An evaluation project to confirm expected benefits is underway.

References

<http://www.kbv.de/themen/qualitaetsmanagement.html>
<http://www.versorgungsleitlinien.de/themen>