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”How do the patients and their close relatives experience The Coordinated Investigation Model of Dementia in the North Denmark Region?”

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How do the patients and their close relatives experience The Coordinated Investigation Model of Dementia in the North Denmark Region? - And which dilemmas exist?

Aim of the project

The aim of the project was to investigate how the patients and their close relatives experienced the investigation and the subsequent social medicine intervention, and to give recommendations based on the results.

Background

The Coordinated Investigation Model of Dementia implies that the primary investigation is carried out in the primary sector by a general practitioner in cooperation with a local dementia nurse in accordance to a specified procedure. Further investigation may hereafter be carried out by specialists in the secondary sector. Especially after The Coordinated Investigation Model was evaluated in 2005 and found useful from a professional point of view, we found it relevant to investigate the experiences by the patients and their close relatives. Read more about the model and the implementation of the model in the North Denmark Region and the municipalities in the Region:

<http://www.kronikerenheden.dk/DenNordjyskeKronikermode>

Methods

The project is based on qualitative interviews with 11 families.

Results

The project shows that the patients and their close relatives don't relate to the model – but rather to the results of the investigation, responsiveness and comfort. The investigation in the secondary sector seems very important to the patients and their relatives, who generally expressed that important decisions and information were handled by the secondary sector. A follow-up interview in the primary sector after investigation, which is mandatory according to the model, was practiced to a very limited extent. The role of the local dementia nurse as a coordinator was widely recommended by the patients and their close relatives, since many have experienced an accessible support and a relevant help. Read the report here:

[http://www.egv.dk/Files/Billeder/pdf/Demensudredning\[1\].pdf](http://www.egv.dk/Files/Billeder/pdf/Demensudredning[1].pdf)

Financing of the project

The Quality Improvement Committee for general practice in the North Denmark Region has allocated funding to the project.

Project execution

The project has been carried out by general practitioner Hanne Hulgaard, cultural sociologist, Ph.D. Christine E. Swane, Director of EGV Foundation and Ph.D. student, nurse Aase Marie Ottesen.

Recommendations

Recommended interventions to improve the quality of the coordinated dementia investigation and the socio-medical follow-up:

- The primary sector's role in investigation and follow-up should be strengthened with the aim of executing the model with lowest effective cost.
- The dementia nurse's role in follow-up should be strengthened.
- A formal agreement regarding follow-up should be implemented.
- The relatives should be more involved during the investigation process and in the socio-medical follow-up.
- Guidelines for communication should be ensured to communicate the diagnosis to the person with dementia and their relatives - based on their individual needs.
- Support to "self-help" can be a useful way to motivate the person with dementia to accept help, which would otherwise be rejected.
- Focus on the relatives unmet needs should be increased, including information about help options that can be offered.

Further information about the project

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