

Implementation of Changes in Perinatal Care in the North of the Netherlands

The **ACT**ion-project

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BACKGROUND

In the Netherlands, perinatal audits are deployed to discuss the causes of stillbirth and neonatal deaths in a multi-disciplinary setting. As a result improvements are formulated. The implementation however appears to be difficult. To improve implementation skills among involved professionals, the 4-year ACTion-project started January 2013.



AIM

Improved implementation skills of professionals working in perinatal care in order to achieve improvements identified during audits.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The project includes training and follow-up meetings, based on implementation theory from Grol et al¹; and is evaluated through standardized evaluation forms. The professionals assess their own skills before and after the 3 training sessions. The progress and the effectiveness of the training and follow-up is monitored by questionnaires, process journals, observations (during audit meetings) and interviews.

¹Grol R, Wensing M, Eccles M and Davis D.: 'Improving Patient Care. The Implementation of Change in Healthcare'. John Wiley & Sons. 2013

TRAINING AND FOLLOW-UP

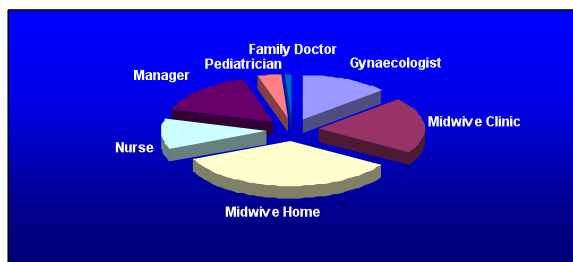
3 training sessions of 3 hours each, includes:

- Implementation and change knowledge
- Practical tools for implementation
- Application on local improvements during training

3 guided follow-up meetings per year, includes:

- Guidance and support, focused on specific questions based on a needs assessment
- Train-the-trainer concept: extending knowledge and skills by involving other colleagues

	March-July 2013	Sept-December 2013	Febr-June 2014	From September 2014
3-session training	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	
Follow-up meetings		Group 1	Group 1 Group 2	Group 1 Group 2 Group 3



RESULTS

1. Spread of knowledge by training in 11 groups, with a total of 83 persons derived from 8 professional groups in obstetrics
2. Application of knowledge on 22 improvement projects in 16 months
3. Changes in the organization of audit meetings, i.e.:
 - > Improved preliminary work
 - > Assigning responsibility for implementation of improvements
 - > Consequent sharing of feedback on results of implementing improvements
 - > Improved efficiency audit meeting

CONCLUSIONS

After the 3-sessions training all involved professionals were more knowledgeable on the implementation method and all were positive on their increased ability to incorporate improvements derived from perinatal audits. Moreover this ability enhances restructuring the discussion and feedback on improvement projects during the audit meetings.



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