

Improving the Continuity of Patient Care – a Swedish Perspective

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Conclusion:

Swedish facilitators for handover:

- shared IT system, including discharge planning tool on the web
- communication between professionals
- information transferred by patients

Swedish barriers for handover:

- lack of medication list at patients' referral
- ambiguity regarding patients' responsibility
- incomplete and delayed information from hospitals to primary care



Handover has three equally important stakeholders: patients, hospital care and community/primary care

Handover

- Handover is defined as information transfers between care providers and between care providers and patients
- HANDOVER is a European collaborative* project aiming to optimize the continuum of clinical care at the community/primary care – hospital care interface

European handovers:

European facilitators for handover:

- use of transfer nurses
- personal contact between care providers
- patient/family empowerment

European barriers for handover:

- lack of knowledge and understanding of each other in the health and social care systems
- incomplete and delayed information
- lack of shared IT systems

Methods:

Qualitative interviews with chronic ill patients and their caregivers in hospitals and primary care in Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy and Poland

Next focus in Sweden: Patient participation in handovers

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*The European HANDOVER Research Collaborative: UMCU, RUNMC, CELSTEC – the Netherlands, FAD – Spain, BHAM – United Kingdom, CMJ/NCQA – Poland, ASL – Italy, Karolinska – Sweden



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