

Implementation of Nursing Standards in a Dialysis Network

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Introduction

Nursing is a science and an art. As scientists, nurses engage in research, development, implementation, and analysis.

Improving patient safety by promoting quality in nursing care and nurses' work has become a priority for all healthcare organisations.

Both quality and healthcare experts advocate improving nursing quality through quality measurement, research and collaborative learning.

A nursing project team, involving several countries across in Europe, developed and revised nursing standards.

This resulted in quality directives:

- **NephroCare Standard Good Dialysis Care** (Fig. 1)
- **NephroCare Standard Hygiene and Infection Control** (Fig. 2)

Both directives are part of the network integrated management system and the subject of annual auditing.

Objectives

Implementing nursing quality standards for hygiene and infection control and good dialysis care in a dialysis network.

Methods

The implementation process was scheduled for a one-year time frame (Fig.3) and included mandatory steps of developing the local language version in each country, training the staff, and checking the training results by means of theoretical and practical questionnaires.

The results were anonymously collected and a copy was sent to the document owner.

The implementation process was completed when the country-specific final report (Fig.4) including the results of the questionnaires was released and approved by the local management.

Results

After one year, implementation results were:

- **20 countries** have implemented the nursing standards.
- **4 countries** are not part of the corporate integrated management system; despite this they followed the same implementation rules.

Implementation results were checked by performing expert audits in selected clinics which found only minor deviations from the standard.

Conclusion

Providing quality care that meets a high standard is an ethical responsibility of healthcare professionals. Nurses have a longstanding commitment to improve the quality of care they provide [1].

Quality standards for nursing care, developed by nurses, were well accepted. The expert audits revealed compliance to quality standards and positive feedback from nurses.

References

1. Lang NM, Mitchell PH, Hinshaw AS, Jennings BM, Lamb GS, Mark BA. Measuring and improving health care quality. Medical Care. 2004;42(2, Suppl.):I11-I13.

NephroCare Standard Good Dialysis Care



Figure 1. NephroCare Standard Good Dialysis Care

NephroCare Standard Hygiene and Infection Control



Figure 2. NephroCare Standard Hygiene and Infection Control

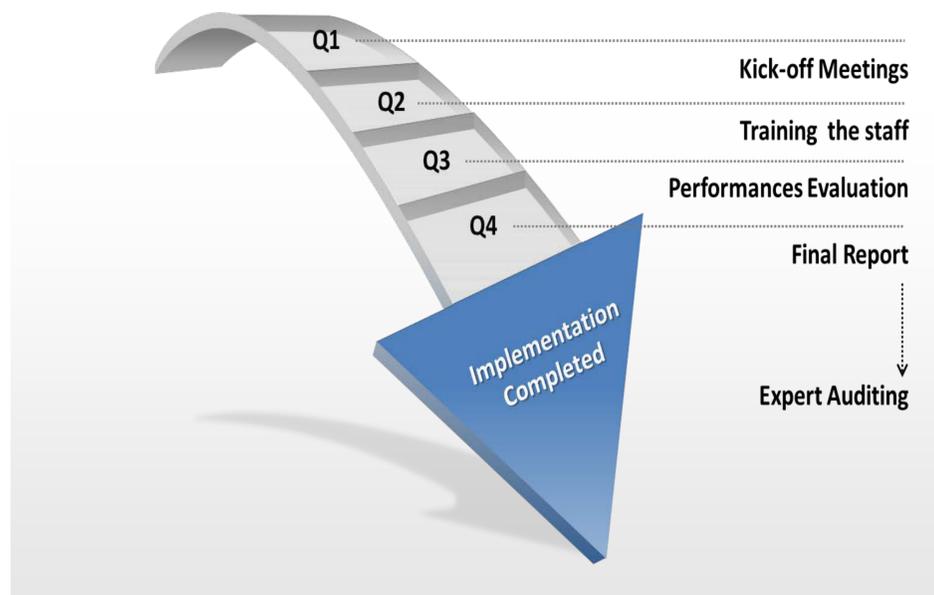


Figure 3. NephroCare Standard implementation timeline

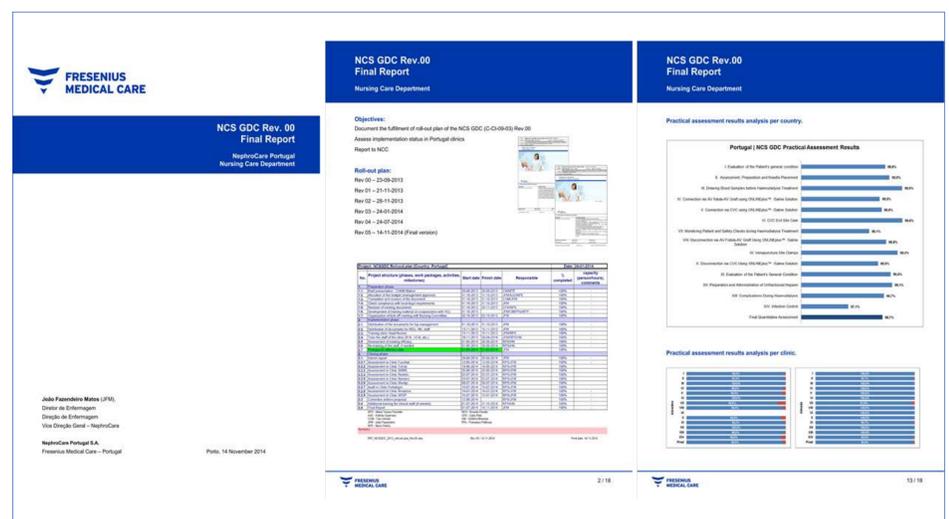


Figure 4. Example of NC Standard implementation report