

The role and contributions of self-help groups and the self-help-friendly hospital

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Co-producing better health gain through user participation and community involvement

Alf Trojan, Christopher Kofahl

University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf Department of Medical Sociology Patient-Centeredness and Self-Help Martinistr. 52 20246 Hamburg trojan@uke.de



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Praxishilfe Selbsthilfefreundliches Krankenhaus – auf dem Weg zu mehr Patientenorientierung Ein Leitfaden für interessierte Krankenhäuser







I. Self-help groups and their roles in the health care system

- umbrella term self-help groups (SHGs) means:
- "mutual help-", "mutual aid-" or "support groups" and
- patient (advocacy), consumer or user associations/organisations,
- the more or less organised, but non-professional counterpart of professional health carers



Roles of patients and lay people in the shaping of health services

- Collaborator in health care and health promotion;
- Co-producer of health services for themselves, their family members and others
- Participant, (co-)decision-maker
- Reviewer and controller (QM, quality circles etc.)

Basic assumption: user participation has the greatest benefit for hospitals and other health services when patients are involved in quality management.



Patient centeredness as quality dimension

- One of four system components of health care quality was defined by The Institute of Medicine as follows:
- Patient centeredness refers to health care that establishes a partnership among practitioners, patients, and their families (when appropriate) to ensure that decisions respect patients' wants, needs, and preferences and that patients have the education and support they need to make decisions and participate in their own care." (National Research Council, 2001, pp. 7, 41, 50, 127, 224)

National Research Council. (2001). Envisioning the National Health Care Quality Report. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10073.html .



Approaches to involve patients in quality improvement

- Increasing use of patient surveys for monitoring quality
- First steps in patient participation in quality circles of physicians in ambulatory care
- Some involvement of patients in disease management programs (esp. breast cancer)
- Patient complaint systems in some hospitals
- Patient ombudspersons in hospitals and other institutions
- Self-help friendliness a a systematic approach to involve self-help groups sustainably





II. Self-help friendliness

Ihr direkter Weg zur Selbsthilfe – unsere Selbsthilfebeauftragte Unsere Selbsthilfebeauftragte ist Ansprechpartnerin

Wir wollen die Zusammenarbeit bewusst gestalten und arbeiten eng mit den Selbsthilfegruppen und der Selbsthilfe-Kontaktstelle Paderborn des Paritätischen zusammen.

Die zentrale Ansprechpartnerin für Mitarbeiter, Patienten und Angehörige im St. Johannisstift Paderborn ist die Selbsthilfebeauftragte Stephanie Kretschmann.

- für Patientinnen und Patienten, die an einer Selbsthilfegruppe interessiert sind: Beratung und Vermittlung an die kooperierenden Selbsthilfegruppen und die Selbsthilfe-Kontaktstelle
- für Selbsthilfegruppen, die im Hause aktiv sind: Beratung und Unterstützung in der Kooperation
- für Kolleginnen und Kollegen im Hause:
 Aktive Weiterentwicklung der Zusammenarbeit

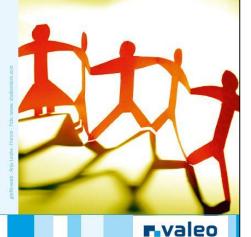
Selbsthilfefreundliches

St. Johannisstift

Ev. Krankenhaus

St. Johannisstift Paderborn

Mut machen – Kraft schöpfen – Lebensfreude gewinnen!





Kontakt Selbsthilfebeauftragte

Stephanie Kretschmann Qualitätsmanagementbeauftragte, zu erreichen über die Zentrale oder:

Tel. 05251 | 401 - 204 E-Mail s.kretschmann@johannisstift.de St. Johannisstift Evangelisches Krankenhaus Paderborn GmbH Reumontstraße 28

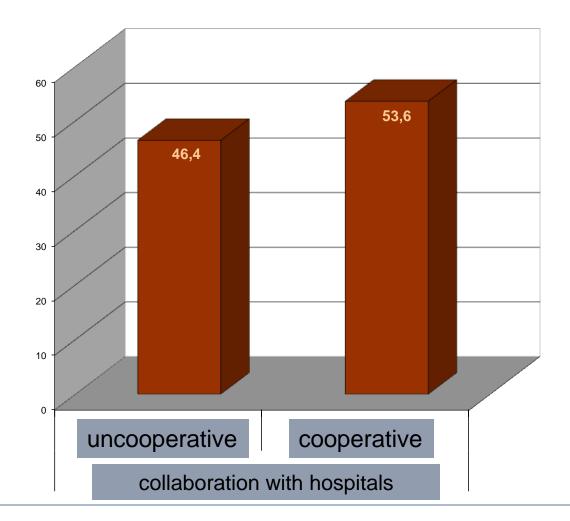
33102 Paderborn

Telefon 05251 | 401 - 0 Internet www.johannisstift.de

www.valeo-klinikverbund.de



Assessment of collaboration with hospitals (Germany 2007; 322 self-help organisations; response N = 148 = 46 %)





Steps of development

- In a series of participative action research a concept of self-help friendliness (SHF) in health care has been developed and implemented in four stages:
 - 1. Analysis of needs and wishes of SHGs for cooperation with health care professionals,
 - 2. gathering facilitators and barriers concerning the cooperation,
 - 3. development of a framework concept for SHF in hospitals including eight quality criteria for measuring SHF, and
 - 4. implementation of the framework of SHF in about 30 hospitals during the pilot projects. (2018: 44 hospitals + 21 rehabilitation hospitals)

Transfer of this strategy into all services; done for: outpatient care, public health institutions and rehabilitation centres.



Three essential dimensions of self-help friendliness

- ✓ information and support for self-help activities
- Sustainable implementation of communication and collaboration with self-help groups
- Involvement / participation of self-help groups



III. The self-help friendly hospital





Eight Quality Criteria for SHF in Hospitals

(Bobzien, 2008)

- 1. The hospital offers SHGs rooms, infrastructure and possibilities for public relations
- 2. Patients of the hospital are personally informed about self-help on a regular basis
- 3. The hospital supports public relations of the SHG
- 4. The hospital appoints a staff member as a contact person for self-help
- 5. Staff and SHG members are meeting regularly for information exchange
- 6. SHGs are involved in further education/training of staff
- 7. SHGs are involved in quality circles and ethical committees
- 8. The collaboration is formally agreed on and the activities will be documented



Accomplishment of SHF assessed by staff of five hospitals

(consent on a scale* from 0 to 100; N = 405)



*Consent to 10 statements from 1 to 4, changed into a scale from 0 to 100



IV. Better health gain through closer collaboration?





Open-ended Question

Why is integration of self-help friendliness into quality management beneficial? (N = 209 positive comments of staff members)

- 67% of the positive responses refer to the "*improved quality of care*":
 - improved aftercare, therapy sustainability (20% of all comments),
 - more psychosocial support, information (16%),
 - improved self-management of patients (14%),
 - therapy complement / contribution (11%),
 - generally important for treatment (6%).
- Benefits for patients (12%):
 - more contact and communication between patients,
 - image benefits for SHGs,
 - more pleasant hospital stay ("well-being").
- Advantages for the *hospital* (20%):
 - better supply management (organisational, economic),
 - improved cooperation between SHG/hospital,
 - improved image and patient loyalty.



Patient-centered care improves treatment results

- better functional status, less infections, shorter hospital stay and higher compliance in joint replacements (Di Gioia, 2008)
- higher 1-year-survival of myocardial-infarct patients (Meterko et al., 2010)
- significantly reduced decubitus rates and other treatment related complications (Isaac et al., 2010)
- higher patient satisfaction; better assessments in patient questionaires for willingness to recommend the hospital to others and to return to the hospital (lacono 2001)



Patient-centered care (PCC) can improve economic results

- "PCC-hospitals reap a number of financial benefits":
- Reduced length of stay,
- Lower cost per case,
- Decreased adverse events,
- Higher employee retention rates,
- Reduced operating costs,
- Decreased malpractice claims
- Increased market share

Quelle: Charmel / Frampton: Building the business case for patient-centred care; March 2008



V. Conclusions

- Self-help friendliness is an approach to institutionalising the idea of patient-centeredness on the collective level.
- Criteria of self-help friendliness are valuable instruments for those who want to establish new partnerships between civil society and professional health sector.
- Our findings demonstrate that implementation of the criteria in hospitals is feasible and that results can be sustained.
- There is a *cogent* plausibility that self-help friendliness can improve patient satisfaction, self-management, coping and health literacy of patients.
- There is sketchy evidence that patient-centered hospitals can improve treatment results and gain financial benefits.



Appreciation of SHF in other countries

- Transferability into comparable contexts is given:
- Initiatives of SHF have come into existence in about 40 Austrian hospitals (Forster & Rojatz, 2011); there are model projects in some other countries.
- If and how SHF could be used for quality improvement and health care reforms in other countries needs further research.
- Self-help friendliness as an approach is included in the "New Haven Recommendations"
- A European network is being launched; next meeting of country representatives 29 June 2018 in Berlin.





Nov. 2017: decision to form a European Network

http://www.selbsthilfefreundlichkeit.de/europaeische-kooperation-fuermehr-selbsthilfefreundlichkeit-beschlossen/



Contactpersons:

Germany: Antje Liesener, Bundeskoordinatorin des Netzwerks Selbsthilfefreundlichkeit und Patientenorientierung im Gesundheitswesen liesener@selbsthilfefreundlichkeit.de, +49 30 890 96 254, www.selbsthilfefreundlichkeit.de

Switzerland: Sarah Wyss, Geschäftsführerin Selbsthilfe Schweiz und nationale Projektleiterin «Selbsthilfefreundliche Gesundheitsinstitutionen» s.wyss@selbsthilfeschweiz.ch, +41 79 811 24 87, www.selbsthilfeschweiz.ch

Austria: Monika Maier, Mitglied im Steuerungsgremium der Initiative nationales netzwerk selbsthilfe – NANES und Präsidentin des Dachverbandes Selbsthilfe Kärnten maier@selbsthilfe-kaernten.at, +43 664 52 64 564, <u>www.selbsthilfe-kaernten.at</u>

Belgium: Carine Van Wanseele, scientific collaborator at Trefpunt Zelfhulp vzw, carine.vanwanseele@kuleuven.be, +32 16 32 39 53, www.zelfhulp.be

Thank you for your attention!

Alf Trojan

University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Department of Medical Sociology Martinistr. 52;20246 Hamburg

trojan@uke.de



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