

Building a regional network for operating theatre nurses enhance quality and safe practices across hospitals

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Background:

The Western Norway Regional Health Authority (Helse Vest) has overall responsibility for the specialist health service in the counties of Rogaland, Hordaland and Sogn og Fjordane.

Professional cooperation in the regions is important for stimulating learning and to share knowledge and experience across the region. Helse Vest is supporting a regional network amongst professional disciplines.

Helse Vest consists of four health enterprises: Helse Stavanger, Helse Fonna, Helse Bergen and Helse Førde, which provides health services and surgical services for 1 million inhabitants. In the strategy plan for 2017-2022 establishing regional professional networks are encouraged.

The surgical services rely on high competent professionals and resources to deliver good health care. Operating theatre nurses are part of the surgical services and would benefit of sharing experience, research and knowledge in a network.

Methods:

Network for operating theatre nurses in charge of operating theatre nursing, was established in 2017 in order to share knowledge, expertise, experience, and discuss solutions to common challenges.

The academic content and program has been developed in collaboration between the Lecturer-practitioner for operating theatre nurses at the university teaching hospitals HUS and SUS. This cooperation has been important in order to achieve a good result.

Results:

Attending operating theatre nurses have been very satisfied with the network meetings. The meetings have included master degree projects, quality improvement, and discussions on equipment, logistics, challenges in the field of infection protection, positioning the patient for surgery, decontamination, new surgical techniques that influence on the work of operating theatre nurses.

Conclusions:

It is important that the major regional hospitals take initiative and collaborate on professional development. By focusing on the patient, patient safety, and safe surgery, the regional network helps to promote quality in the specialist health service through better information flow across hospitals, collaboration and sharing of professional procedures.

