Can health care standards be standardised?

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http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2015/06/30/bmjqs-2015-003955.abstract BMJ Quality and safety 30 June 2015
Requirements or standards?

• Comparable assessment of health services requires comparable statements of requirements

• These may be expressed as:
  – Standards (agreed levels of service)
  – Guidelines (recommendations to guide decisions) or
  – Directives (with which health services must comply)
Practical applications of standards

- Identifying “good” institutions eg referral networks, cross-border care, national contact points
- Identifying “good” clinical services eg for breast cancer
- Promote quality and safety eg minimum safety standards
- Workforce: skills, training, mobility
- Translating health service research eg Handover, DUQuE, EUNetPaS
- Healthcare financing: universal health coverage
- External assessment: regulation, ISO certification, HC accreditation
Standards development approaches

• Clinical practice
  – Biomedical research eg HAS, NICE, SIGN, AHRQ
  – AGREE principles - Appraisal of guidelines, research and evaluation

• Institutional systems
  – Health service research
  – Empirical learning eg patient safety, peer review; WHO, CoE, EC

• Regulated (ISO) model
  – Consensus

• Legal
  – Institutional regulation, licensing
  – Professional regulation, licensing
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Standard reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEN/TC 394</td>
<td>Healthcare provision by chiropractors</td>
<td>EN 16224:2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEN/TC 403</td>
<td>Aesthetic surgery services</td>
<td>prEN 16372</td>
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<td>CEN/TC 414</td>
<td>Osteopathic healthcare provision</td>
<td>EN 16686</td>
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<td>CEN/TC 424</td>
<td>Early care services for babies born with cleft lip and/or palate</td>
<td>CEN/TR 16824</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEN/TC 427</td>
<td>Services of medical doctors with additional qualification in homeopathy</td>
<td>prEN 00427001</td>
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Integrating key definitions and steps

• Definitions
  – Language, taxonomy
  – Scope, quality dimensions and purpose
  – Stakeholders
• Evidence
  – Research, systematic review, referencing
• Drafting, consultation
• Piloting and field-testing
• Evaluation, feedback, revision
• Publication and public access
• Review and revision
Challenges and opportunities

Some challenges
– Conflicting terminology between approaches
– Limited research on impact of external assessment
– Confusion on application of ISO accreditation to health services
– No standard for healthcare standards
– Political and professional attitudes to standardisation

• Some opportunities
– CEN seeking a strategy for healthcare standards
– JRC hosting
  • Putting Science into Standards, October 2015
  • EC initiative in breast cancer quality assurance and accreditation
– Clinical service accreditation in UK
  • Collaboration of BSI, professional bodies and regulator in England
  • UK extension needs support of government departments, and Europe
Proposals to EC Expert Group on patient safety and quality Brussels 28 Sept 2015

- Clarify plans for extending directive 765/2008 (accreditation of goods and products) to health services
- Facilitate development of CEN strategy for application of standards to health care
- Support proposal to develop a national “standard for healthcare standards” compatible with evidence-based medicine, regulatory requirements and ISO systems