

The Introduction of Cancer Patient Pathways in Norway: Premises and Challenges

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Abstract. Standardized health trajectories, or patient pathways, are organizing principles in healthcare aiming to get an overview of administrative as well as logistical responsibilities. The aim of pathways is to achieve better quality of care, through a more efficient, equal and predictable process of diagnosis, treatment and cure. Inspired by Denmark, the Norwegian Directorate of Health has introduced 28 cancer patient pathways (CPP) during 2015. So far in Norway, no studies have looked into how the cancer patient pathways are practiced. In this presentation we discuss the promises cancer patient pathways in Norway holds, especially with regard to communication and coordination. The role of the pathway coordinator(s) is especially interesting, since there is both a coordinator employed at the municipal level, and one at each hospital. These are key players for coordination and communication between the various actors and their tasks along the pathway. In Norway, and also in Denmark, time has been portrayed as the most important indicator for success when realizing cancer patient pathways. However, there is currently less focus on other aspects such as quality, patient perception of safety and care, and finally, how do those not included in the cancer patient pathways experience their trajectories?

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