Improvements for patient safety in Europe
Health First Europe and Navarre Region (Spain)

Patient Safety: Learning from Navarre Region

Harm to patients is the fourteenth leading cause of global morbidity, posing a threat to human health. On any given day, at least 1 out of 18 patients in European hospitals gets a health care associated infection (HAI). Likewise, in Europe, 1 out of 10 hospitalized patients experience a negligence during their medical care. However, these damages are mostly preventable[1].

Evidence suggests that strategies to reduce the rate of adverse medical events only in the European Union would lead to a reduction in 750,000 preventable errors, 3.2 million days of hospitalisation reduced, 260,000 less permanent disability incidents, 95,000 less deaths per year, and more[2].

Patient safety is a fundamental right that healthcare should take care of. There is a certain degree of danger inherent in each step of the health care process and adverse events can occur in relation to clinical practice, medications or procedures. The 2014-2020 health plan of the Autonomous Community of Navarre (Spain), establishes the strategy for patient safety in health centres, following the recommendations, based on evidence from the Spanish Ministry of Health. Of these, 130 actions were launched, among which are:

1. The implementation of the **Antibiotic Use Optimization Program (PROA)** in hospitals and in the primary care network in line with the National Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance (PRAN).
2. The creation of a **Sepsis Code, in 2016**. As a result, sepsis has been reduced by 6% since 2014 and its mortality has decreased to 24% in the total of 2018 cases.
3. **Prevention of nosocomial infections**. Infections acquired during hospital stays have decreased by 1% annually since 2015. The prevalence in 2018 has been 4.41%, below the national average (4.84%).
4. **Reporting adverse events**. The interest of professionals in correcting and learning about safety incidents increased with the proportion of notifications collected in the SINASP patient notification and learning system, and SINAP incident and event registration developed by the Spanish Ministry of Health, 3 times higher than the average of the rest of Spanish regions.
5. **Response plan to adverse events.** Response plans for a serious adverse event have been implemented in health centres throughout the network to prevent its occurrence or mitigate its impact in case it happens, protecting patients, professionals and the institution itself.
6. **For medication safety,** the electronic prescription has been deployed to the entire out-of-hospital network, and 4 expert systems have been designed to help prescribe and prevent errors: **LAMIA**, system for electronic prescription extended throughout the network; **SAPE**, help for an integrated and secure electronic prescription (Identifies

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[1] WHO, 10 facts on patient safety (2019). Retrieved from
https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/patient_safety/en/
[2] http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/patient-safety/data-and-statistics

interactions, contraindications, therapeutic equivalents, teratogenic, accessible online and offline); **OBSERVA**, communication module between pharmacists and primary care physicians and for pharmacists and hospital doctors, for the review of medication and for conciliation at hospital discharge and finally, **FARHO** for validation and reconciliation of prescription during the hospitalization.

It is important to highlight the work of Navarre in improving patient safety, within Spain and Europe. The duty of every medical centre is to minimize the risks arising from clinical activity. Therefore, the improvement of patient safety requires a complex effort by the entire health system, covering a wide range of actions aimed at improving medical activities; the management of safety and environmental risks, the control of infections, the safe use of medicines, the safety of equipment and the environment in which health care is provided.

At EU level, Health First Europe (HFE), has strongly advocated to make these changes happen. In 2018 HFE launched Declaration for Patient Safety, asking the health authorities, representatives of high political, medical, scientists and patients, to avoid unnecessary damage to health care and promote safer health systems with higher quality standards for patient safety throughout Europe, by working together. When it comes to patient safety measures, it is important to promote regional initiatives and success stories to help strengthening our European health systems. Exchanging views and security practices between health care professionals across European countries can only help in tackling patient harm across Europe.

For more information about our patient safety request, we offer you to visit: http://declaration4patientsafety.eu and participate in our social media campaign:

#Declaration4PatientSafety