

# Quality and improvement - a continuing focus

Quality - what does that mean to you? A standard in a service such as CE marking or is it about excellence? Is it a minimum to achieve expected outcomes? It may mean different things to each of us but how do we measure the quality of care we deliver?



In 2008 Lord Darzi in his report 'High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review' set out the framework for the delivery of high quality care to all NHS patients. Since then, and despite the need for significant cost efficiencies within the health economy, quality remains high on the agenda as highlighted within two examples of initiatives where perioperative practitioners can be involved and where the impact may affect our patients care.

The Enhanced Recovery Programme is a partnership programme involving the whole health economy and its aim is to ensure that the patient is in optimal condition for

treatment and that they are an active participant in their care. Initiated in Denmark various modules of the programme have been adopted within England, demonstrating patient benefits of reduced length of stay, enhanced and quicker recovery, and improved patient experience. The programme focuses on maximising four key areas of the patients surgical pathway; preoperative assessment and planning, reducing the patients physical stress from surgery, increased post-operative comfort and improved postoperative care.

Another nursing led quality initiative is 'High Impact Actions for Nursing and Midwifery' and shares examples of practice countrywide to understand how local changes in practice and service redesign have improved quality whilst reducing costs. The key areas which affect perioperative practice include: your skin matters, ready to go - no delays and protection from infection.

Such initiatives are to be applauded but must be shared. How many of you are

involved with these projects? How many of you are aware of them within your hospital/trust? If you are not sure go and find out. Get involved and then share with your colleagues locally and nationally. Such initiatives make a difference to the quality of service you provide for your patients.

Please let me know if you have any examples through either of the above programmes or even a change to practice you would like to share- you could even present a paper or provide a poster at Congress.

For more information on either of the above programmes contact [www.institute.nhs.uk](http://www.institute.nhs.uk)

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