

Physicians participation in Quality Improvement Work

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Hypothesis

- Designated physician time promotes their participation in Quality Improvement Work (QIW).

Aims

- To determine prevalence of physicians reporting
 - Interest in QIW.
 - Active participation in QIW.
 - Designated time to participate in QIW
- To assess if
 - Designated time to participate in QIW had an effect on interest and active participation.

Methods

Four items in a cross-sectional postal survey on a representative sample of 2085 physicians in different job positions in Norway in 2019.

Quality improvement work (QIW) was defined as improving how patient care is organized and implemented so that it becomes more effective, safer, more user-friendly, characterized by better coordination, continuity and efficiency. A common way of doing this is to use the quality circle (PDSA), with repeated assessment of the effect and possible adjustment of quality improvement measures.

Analyses

Main outcome measures were physicians' interest in, designated time to and active participation in quality improvement work (QIW).

Chi square tests were performed to assess the relationships.

Results

Response rate was 72.6% (1513 of 2085).

A large proportion of physicians wanted to participate in quality improvement work, and many had actively done so in the last year.

Results

Few reported designated time in their work schedule for participation in quality improvement work.

Physicians' active participation in quality improvement work, and interest to do so was significantly related to if they reported having designated time for quality improvement work in their work schedule.

Discussion

Our study demonstrates a gap between a large proportion of physicians being interested in quality improvement work and a lower proportion of physicians actually taking part in it.

Conclusion

Physicians want to participate in quality improvement work.

They participate to a higher degree when they have designated time in their work schedule.

Leaders can increase physicians' participation in quality improvement work, by ensuring that time for this is part of their work schedule.