

A nationally coordinated approach to developing hospital pharmacy services in Denmark



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What was done and why?

A national working group (**AFUMA** *) was established to coordinate, standardise and develop clinical and ward pharmacy services throughout Denmark.

Despite Denmark being a relatively small country, these services have developed at differing paces, and sometimes in different directions.

What has been achieved so far?

- The group has produced and implemented minimum standards for ward pharmacy across Denmark
- National benchmarking has been carried out using these standards and baseline has been determined (2014)
- A new national standard for the frequency of medicine shelf-life checks on wards has been developed, recommending that the task is carried out less frequently, thus releasing resources to more clinically related tasks
- Two national networking days for pharmacists and pharmaconomists working in clinical pharmacy have been held, where all hospital pharmacies were represented. New initiatives and good practices are thereby shared to all the regions and hospital pharmacies in Denmark through oral presentations and posters



Facts about AFUMA

- AFUMA was established in 2012/13 and refers to the Danish national advisory group for clinical pharmacy research and development (KFFU)
- All hospital pharmacies in Denmark are represented (and therefore all hospitals)
- Consists of 7 pharmacists and 9 pharmaconomists
- Members are 'hand-picked' for their experience as drivers of innovation and development in the field of clinical and ward pharmacy
- Meetings are quarterly, with additional work carried out between meetings
- Meeting attendance and work carried out by AFUMA members is not funded - their workplaces are not compensated

Facts about Denmark



5.6 million residents
5 regions
24 hospitals
8 hospital pharmacies
450 clinical pharmacy staff

What next?

- Outlining of national standards for competency development of clinical pharmacy staff
- Scrutinization of other non-clinical tasks in order to highlight further resources that can be transferred to/invested in clinical pharmacy activities
- More benchmarking, measuring other clinical and ward pharmacy activities throughout Denmark
- The work has just begun...!

Can the concept be transferred to other countries?

- Denmark has a national organization where all hospital pharmacy managers are represented; therefore it was relatively easy to reach agreement and set up the working group. In larger countries, a similar initiative may need to be carried out regionally
- Networks already established could lend some of their focus to reviewing current services and developing a clinically-led pharmacy service through standardisation and sharing of innovative ideas
- Denmark has only 8 hospital pharmacies – the smallest has 14 clinical pharmacy staff members, the largest 141. Despite the differing sizes and paces of development at the pharmacies, all have valuable contributions to AFUMA's work. To ensure joint ownership, generalizability and transferability of the developments, it is important that all pharmacies are involved, regardless of their size or current stage of development.

* **AFUMA** • Arbejdsgruppe For Udvikling af Medicinservice og Afdelingsfarmaci
The working group for development of ward- and clinical pharmacy services