

# **Reduction of preventable aspiration pneumonia in hospitalized patients with dysphagia. A quality improvement project at department of Neurology at Slagelse Hospital in Denmark**

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# Background

- Every 10<sup>th</sup> day a patient was diagnosed with a preventable aspiration pneumonia at the neurological ward at Slagelse Hospital
- 60 % likely do to food and liquid restrictions was not respected
- Main cause was lack of knowledge and communication in the interdisciplinary cooperation

# Purpose

- To reduce preventable aspiration pneumonias in the neurological ward at Slagelse Hospital
- To reduce mortality caused by preventable aspiration pneumonias
- Focus on the interdisciplinary cooperation and communication between occupational therapists, nurses, patients and relatives

**100 days without any aspiration pneumonias**

# Methods

## Warning circle by patient bed

”Contact the staff”






## Positioning of patients in bed (30° )

Folder for nurses to measure the angle of the headboard



# Methods

## Colourmarking of patient ID band (red, yellow and green)

-  No food or liquid allowed
-  Restrictions on food and liquids, look at the instruction
-  No restrictions on food and liquids

Information for staff, patients and relatives

# Results

- By May 1st 2017 we reached 151 days without any aspiration pneumonias in the neurological ward at Slagelse hospital
- Elements from the project is now a workflow in the neurological ward at Slagelse hospital
  - The aim is to implement parts of the projekt to other hospital wards in the region.

# Feedback

Suddenly it makes sense, I now know why I'm doing it and what the consequences can be

When we work together, we make a difference

Focus on problems and how we as a group can solve it

*Doctors*      *Nurses*      *OT's*

Increased focus on what's best for our patients



# Conclusion

- By including all professions in the process and working together, the project made sense
- Simple adjustments in our daily routines can make a big difference
- By interdisciplinary teamwork we reached 100 days without any aspiration pneumonias



# Thank you!

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