



Research Centre for Patient Involvement

Aarhus University & Central Denmark Region
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Center for Forskning i Patientinvolvering

December 14th 2022

12:30 – 13:35

Time		Topic Presenter
12:30 PM - 12:35 PM	1. Welcome	Lotte Ørneborg Rodkjær Associate Professor & Deputy Lead ResCenPI
12:35 PM – 13:25 PM	2. Presentation & discussion	Hanne Irene Jensen, Professor, PhD Nurse, Vejle Hospital, and Anne Sophie Ågård, Clinical Specialist, PhD, Nurse, Aarhus University Hospital

Discussing patient preferences for levels of life-sustaining treatment - The POLST project

According to Dansk Palliativ Database (DPD), specialised palliative care was administered to 48 % of cancer patients in 2020 and 47 % of cancer patients in 2021, whereas only 2 % and 3 % of all other patients were given specialised palliative care in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

The aim of the POLST project was threefold:

- Aim 1: To develop and test a Danish version of a POLST form
- Aim 2: To get user perspectives on the POLST form
- Aim 3: To get patients', physicians' and relatives' perspectives on decision-making conversations

According to the original POLST project, doctors aim at identifying patients that can be expected to die within 6-12 months, they listen to the patients' wishes and make decisions together with these patients in three areas:

1. Does the patient want resuscitation attempts?
2. What level of treatment does the patient want?
3. What about the administration of artificial nutrition?

The Danish legal system does not yet allow patients to renounce the administration of resuscitation attempts. However, a change of the Danish legal system is on the way.

The main findings of the Danish POLST project support the three aims of the original POLST project:

- A POLST model is useable to discuss and document patients' wishes regarding life-sustaining treatment
- Patients, physicians and relatives find that having a conversation about levels of life-sustaining treatment is valuable

As a result of Hanne Irene Jensens work in the POLST project, a website has been developed at Sygehus Lillebælt regarding end-of-life care:

13:25 PM – 13:35 PM

3. Other announcements

Hilary L. Bekker & Lotte Ørneborg Rodkjær

Hilary L. Bekker announced that the newsletter with info about the next conference from April 25th-26th of 2023 will be sent out in the beginning of next week.

Also, Hilary congratulated Pernille Pennington on securing a permanent position with the hospital management at AUH and thanked her for all the work she has done for the centre.