

OP18.1

GPs with special interests (GPwSI): an added value for quality improvement?

Liesbeth van der Jagt, G-J Vrieling

Dutch College for General Practitioners, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Corresponding author: Dr Liesbeth van der Jagt, Dutch College of General Practitioners, Implementation, Utrecht, The Netherlands. E-mail: l.vanderjagt@nhg.org

Background & Aim: in 2002 The Dutch College of General Practitioners started the development of advanced education for general practitioners with special interests (GPwSI) in order to improve Quality of Care. The Dutch College is responsible for the attainment targets, programme and certification. The 12 courses are organized by 7 universities. A course exists of about 24 study days in 2 years, plus several traineeships, literature study and intervision. They are accessible to experienced GP's who want to extend their capacity in a certain field, including diabetes, asthma, emergency care, coaching and management/governance. These 'GPwSI' (so called 'gypsies') acquire specific qualities, capabilities and skills on a specific field of general practice. They work at local, regional or national level as counsellor, teacher/trainer or project manager in quality projects. In 2015 a number of 561 GPwSI are active. They contribute to quality improvement by implementing actual and evidence based knowledge and experiences. The GPwSI are united in specific expert groups.

in 2015 a study has been done on the effects of this development, leading to conclusions and recommendations.

Method: The qualitative study was performed in 2015. The response percentage of GPwSI was 38,6 %.

Results: Stakeholders as well as GPwSI appreciate the connection between course and practice as positive; GPwSI spend 18 hrs. per month to this work; and especially in chronic care the demand exceeds the supply. However all GPwSI meet several financial and organizational challenges and bottlenecks.

Participants of the presentation are informed about the conclusions and recommendations of the study GP's with special interests, and the implications for general practice in primary health care.

Conclusions: The introduction of general practitioners with special interests in primary health care is successful and useful. However compliance to several conditions is obligatory.