



## Implementing structured nursing documentation based on SNOMED CT in a Region in Denmark

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### Audience

Nurses and IT-vendors

### Objectives

A way to identify and implement support for structured nursing documentation in an EHR.

### Abstract

CareCom and CSC DK have together with the Danish Region of Zeeland made a pilot project where the goal was to incorporate SNOMED CT codes in a nursing documentation system. The Nursing Module in CSC's Clinical Suite is supporting nursing documentation based on structured templates. SNOMED CT and other coding systems (ICD10-DK (SKS) and ICF) was incorporated as standard terms in the templates for the purposes of supporting nurses with knowledge of standard terms available which covered their needs for documentation.

### Method:

For 17 clinical areas we identified subsets on 3 levels: findings, observations and procedures using HealthTerm's Subset tool.

From the EHR system legacy data was gathered, words/phrases used the most in the documented on these 17 areas for the last 2 years. We used the legacy data as a check list to ensure a minimum documentation possibility, when we identified the subsets.

For each subset another goal was to extend the nurses documentation granularity why we selected sub-hierarchy one level up in the hierarchy based on the identified equivalent concept based on the legacy word/phrase.

### Implementation:

All the subsets was imported into the EHR system and tested in a pre-pilot on a Geriatric ward and a psychiatric ward. The evaluation was based on did they recognize the terms used and would they cover their documentation needs. The respond in a group interview form was that they did recognize the term and it did cover their needs. Another outcome of the test was that it educated them in making a more precise documentation based on the suggested documentation level of detail. They realized the benefits of ensuring standardised way of documenting cross the nurses in the ward.

The nurses were so positive of the outcome of the test of the solution, so they recommended it to the steering board that an implementation should be made on all wards in the region so the benefit was spread across ward and hospitals and not just cross the nurses in a ward. Based in the feedback from the clinicians the Region of Zeeland has planned a full implementation of the nursing system throughout the region. Starting with 3 Somatic ward and 2 Psychiatric wards in May 2013 and then one hospital at a time in the fall 2013. The planning of evaluation of the full implementation is in progress.

### References

1. CareCom's Care Story webpage: <http://www.carecom.dk/?q=node/7>