

One health - bridging human and veterinary public health through quality measures for foodborne diseases

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BACKGROUND & AIM

In most European countries, national healthcare quality assessment programmes are in place, aiming at monitoring and improving the quality and safety of care in hospitals.

Acute myocardial infarction, pneumonia and stroke are among the most important disease-groups for which hospital quality measures have been developed complying with the highest international standards and clinical guidelines, promoting efficiency in the delivery of care and better patient outcomes.

However, little attention has been given to foodborne disease diagnosis, treatment and reporting. This study aims at presenting a framework for healthcare quality assessment programmes for foodborne diseases.

FOODBORNE DISEASE HEALTHCARE QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

SETTING STANDARDS

Set requirements for foodborne disease-specific pathway activities based on clinical guidelines and objective criteria.

GENERAL FOODBORNE DISEASE PATHWAY: Diagnosis, Treatment, Reporting

DEVELOPING ASSESSMENT TOOLS

DATA COLLECTION: develop methods to assure data quality and easy-to-use data collection tools for hospital staff.

DATA ANALYSIS: define process and outcome measures and statistical analyses models to monitor and assess trends over time (including risk-adjustment and benchmarking models).

PERFORMING EXTERNAL EVALUATION

FOLLOW-UP: assure systematic assessment by an independent authority to verify compliance with standards.

FEEDBACK: provide continuous feedback to hospital staff and suggestions for improvement.

PROMOTING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT THROUGH RESULTS PUBLICATION AND ACCREDITATION

BRIDGING HUMAN AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

Many benefits are expected to arise from the implementation of foodborne disease healthcare quality assessment programmes.

These include:

- better coordination between veterinary and public health authorities
- improved implementation of clinical guidelines for foodborne disease diagnosis, treatment and reporting
- improved risk assessment and foodborne attribution models through better data availability
- improved foodborne disease surveillance
- increased public health protection

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