A teamwork on a multiregional network: an experience about harmonizing homecare practices for intravenous antibiotic on an implantable catheter port

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In France, there are 49 specialized CF centres. In each one there are coordinating nurses. One of their tasks is to organize the intravenous antibiotic treatment at home for patients, with the homecare nurses. In November 2006, a group of 18 coordinating nurses of the “West French CF Network” was created representing 3 regions and 10 adult or paediatric CF centres for a total of 853 followed up patients. A senior coordinator is responsible for organizing meetings, projects management and reporting, 3 times a year. After an initial meeting, the group has listed various work tracks. The intravenous antibiotic treatment on implantable catheter port (ICP) has been prioritized by voting. A questionnaire survey about the coordinating nurses’ care practices was initially conducted. The results showed that no coordinating nurse had the same practices. The common was using syringes >10 ml on ICP. Therefore, the group decided to create common protocols for the homecare nurses, in light of national guidelines of ICP. This meant for each coordinating nurse to review its own practices of care, to change and organize the change: many discussions during meetings with respect and listening to others, help of a specialist nurse in hygiene and a specialized lab. The protocols have been written and tested. Some homecare nurses have reviewed them and provided feedback. Then protocols have been validated by C Clin (regional specialists in hygiene in health). Today these protocols are implanted in each centre, for the homecare nurses, in light of national guidelines of ICP. This meant for each coordinating nurse to review its own practices of care, to change and organize the change: many discussions during meetings with respect and listening to others, help of a specialist nurse in hygiene and a specialized lab. The protocols have been written and tested. 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