

Can health care standards be standardised?

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<http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2015/06/30/bmjqs-2015-003955.abstract> BMJ Quality and safety 30 June 2015

Requirements or standards?

- Comparable assessment of health services requires comparable statements of requirements
- These may be expressed as:
 - Standards (agreed levels of service)
 - Guidelines (recommendations to guide decisions) or
 - Directives (with which health services must comply)

Practical applications of standards

- Identifying “good” institutions eg referral networks, cross-border care, national contact points
- Identifying “good” clinical services eg for breast cancer
- Promote quality and safety eg minimum safety standards
- Workforce: skills, training, mobility
- Translating health service research eg Handover, DUQuE, EUNetPaS
- Healthcare financing: universal health coverage
- External assessment: regulation, ISO certification, HC accreditation

Standards development approaches

- Clinical practice
 - Biomedical research eg HAS, NICE, SIGN, AHRQ
 - AGREE principles - Appraisal of guidelines, research and evaluation
- Institutional systems
 - Health service research
 - Empirical learning eg patient safety, peer review; WHO, CoE, EC
- Regulated (ISO) model
 - Consensus
- Legal
 - Institutional regulation, licensing
 - Professional regulation, licensing

CEN Technical Committees on healthcare

Committee	Subject	Standard reference
CEN/TC 394	Healthcare provision by chiropractors	<u>EN 16224:2012</u>
CEN/TC 403	Aesthetic surgery services	prEN 16372
CEN/TC 414	Osteopathic healthcare provision	EN 16686
CEN/TC 424	Early care services for babies born with cleft lip and/or palate	CEN/TR 16824
CEN/TC 427	Services of medical doctors with additional qualification in homeopathy	prEN 00427001

Integrating key definitions and steps

- Definitions
 - Language, taxonomy
 - Scope, quality dimensions and purpose
 - Stakeholders
- Evidence
 - Research, systematic review, referencing
- Drafting, consultation
- Piloting and field-testing
- Evaluation, feedback, revision
- Publication and public access
- Review and revision

Challenges and opportunities

Some challenges

- Conflicting terminology between approaches
- Limited research on impact of external assessment
- Confusion on application of ISO accreditation to health services
- No standard for healthcare standards
- Political and professional attitudes to standardisation

• Some opportunities

- CEN seeking a strategy for healthcare standards
- JRC hosting
 - Putting Science into Standards, October 2015
 - EC initiative in breast cancer quality assurance and accreditation
- Clinical service accreditation in UK
 - Collaboration of BSI, professional bodies and regulator in England
 - UK extension needs support of government departments, and Europe

Proposals to EC Expert Group on patient safety and quality

Brussels 28 Sept 2015

- Clarify plans for extending directive 765/2008 (accreditation of goods and products) to health services
- Facilitate development of CEN strategy for application of standards to health care
- Support proposal to develop a national “standard for healthcare standards” compatible with evidence-based medicine, regulatory requirements and ISO systems

http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/docs/ev_20150928_co07_en.pdf