

Quick Wins

Innovative and economic focus on use of medicines

A.K. Jensen, MSc.Pharm, Pharmacy Department, Nordsjællands Hospital, Dyrehavevej 29, 3400 Hillerød, Denmark, Anette.Jensen.03@regionh.dk
 D.V. Tomsen, MSc.Pharm, Area manager of Clinical Pharmaceutical Service, Nordsjællands Hospital, Hillerød, Denmark, Dorthe.Vilstrup.Tomsen@regionh.dk
 B.Ø. Lindhardt, Chairman of the Local Drug and Therapeutics Committee, MD, Head of the Lung- and Infection Department, Nordsjællands Hospital, Hillerød, Denmark, Bjarne.Oerskov.Lindhardt@regionh.dk

Background:

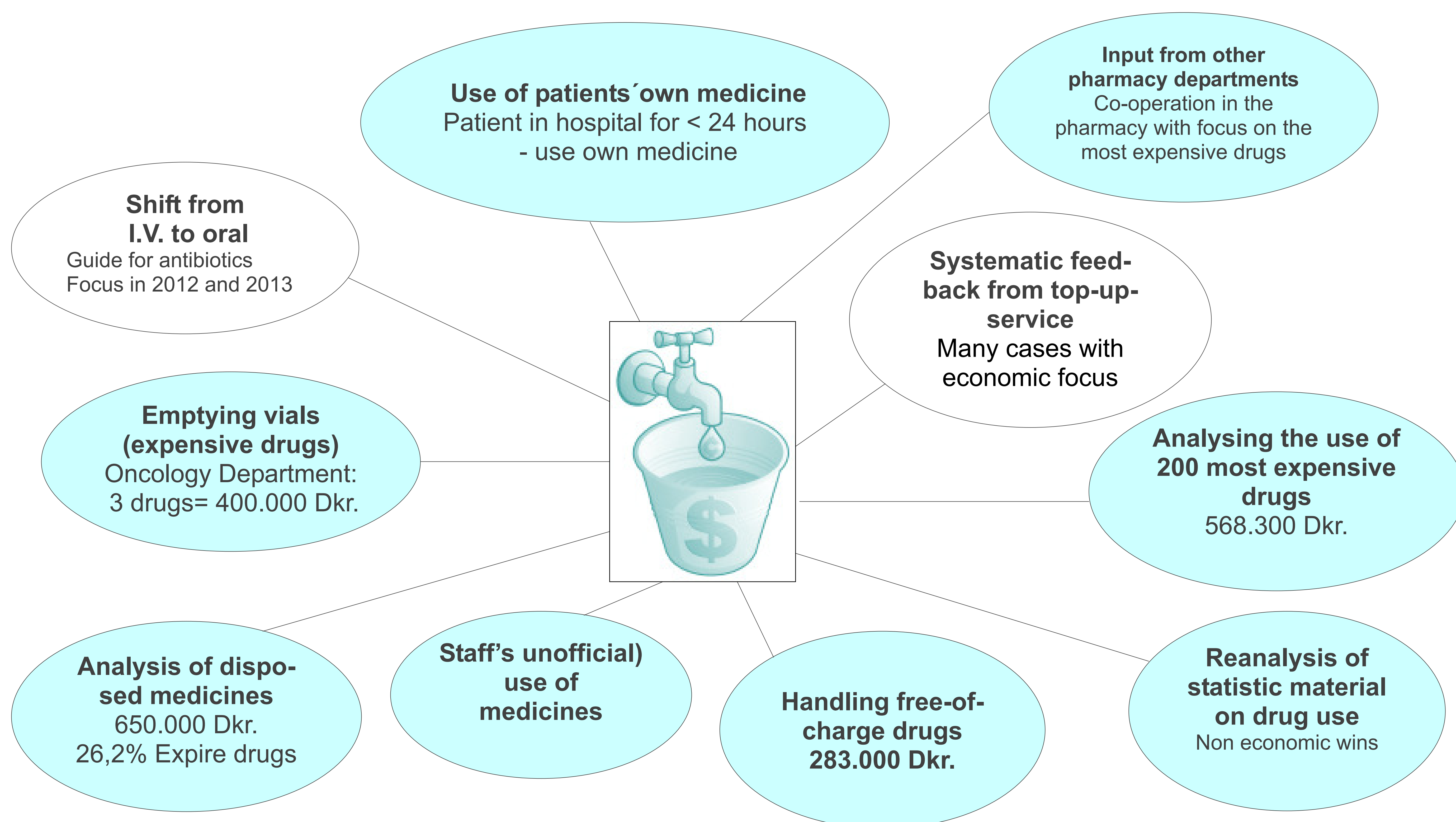
Medicines account for a large part of the budget in Danish hospitals. National and regional actions are initiated to control drug expenses. The local initiative aims at involving doctors, nurses and pharmacy staff in employing an every day responsibility for rational use of drugs. The project: "Quick Wins" is initiated in 2011 and is supported of the board of Nordsjælland Hospital and the Local Drug and Therapeutics Committee.

Purpose:

To establish systematic and documented co-operation between the Local Drug and Therapeutics Committee, the clinical staff and the pharmacy staff to systematically identify and intervene on avoidable medicines expenses.

Materials and methods:

10 focus areas have been identified: Handling free-of-charge drugs, systematic feedback from top-up-service, staff's (unofficial) use of medicines, reanalysis of statistic material on drug use, input from other pharmacy departments, analysing the use of the 120 most expensive drugs, analysis of disposed medicines, emptying vials (expensive drugs), shift from I.V. to oral antibiotics, and use of the patients' own medicine, when possible. Through a systematic approach and co-operation on all levels of the organisation, the 10 focus areas were analysed and implemented in the everyday practice at the hospital.



Results:

The results were registered in a rapport to the Local Drug and Therapeutics Committee in January 2013. An economic estimate was made for 4 out of 10 focus areas. The total result for the 4 interventions areas amounts to a saving of **1.901.300 Dkr./year**. The saving is based on a conservative estimate. For the remaining six focus areas- there's only two in which interventions are still taking place (White). Systematic feedback from top-up-service is an on going process.

Conclusion:

Through a systematic and well documented co-operation between the Local Drug and Therapeutics Committee, the clinical staff and the pharmacy, it is proven possible to save a considerable amount on the total hospital budget.