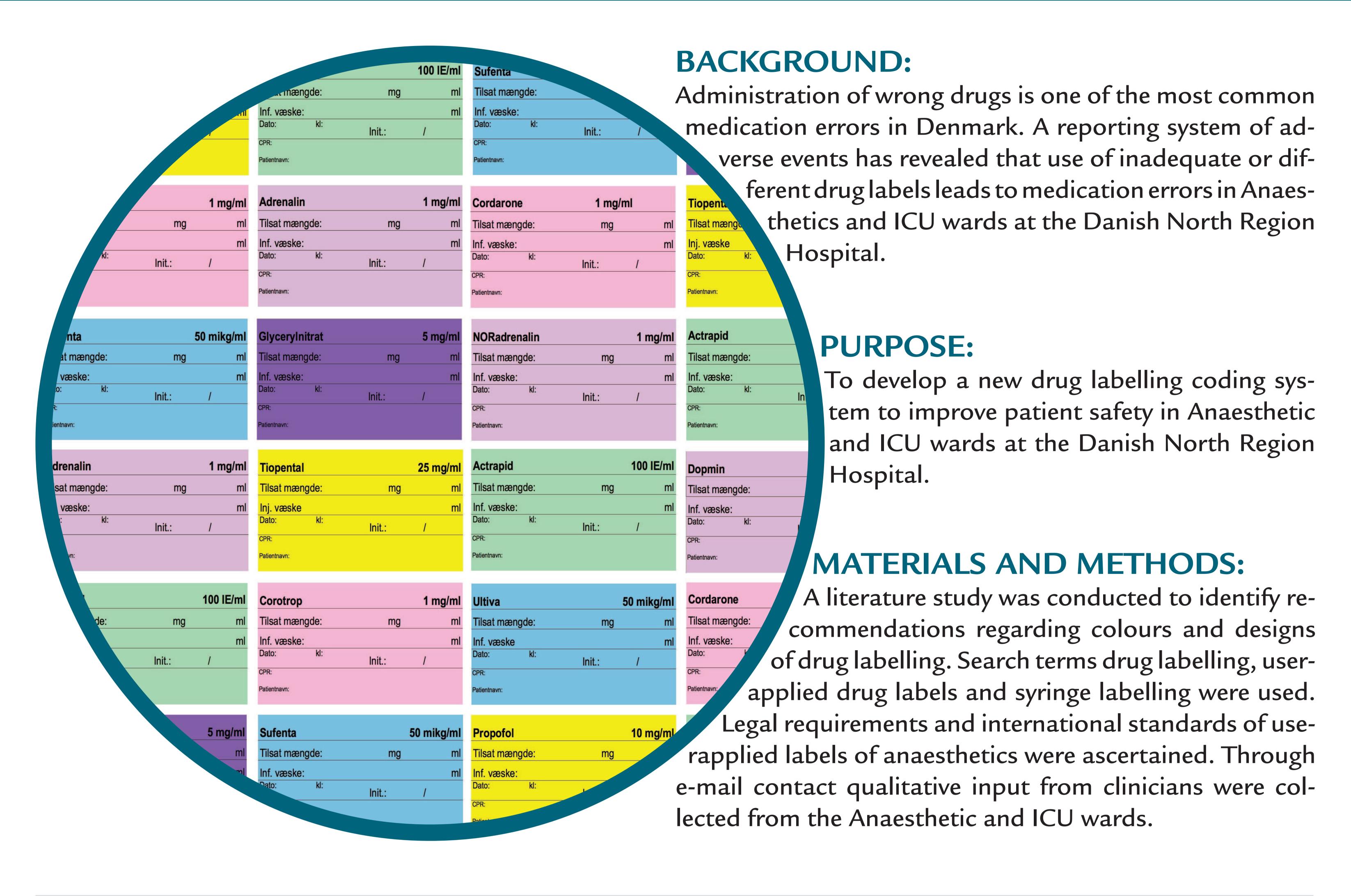
## INTRODUCING COLOUR CODES TO DRUG LABELLING TO INCREASE PATIENT SAFETY

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## **RESULTS:**

New and standardised drug labels complying with national legal requirements were devel-oped.

The labelling design addresses different elements contributing to medication errors:

- · Trade name and strength has a prominent placement and is emphasized in bold
- · Drugs with similar names are differentiated using "tall man letters" e.g. Epinephrine and NORepinephrine
- · Size of drug label is adjusted to different sizes of syringes
- · Colour code reflects the effect of the drug e.g. blue signal opioids while yellow indicate induction agents

Further procedures of compatibility assessment for the use in question have been established, and labels are altered continuously to be consistent with changes in trade names due to adjustments in drug supply.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The labels were successfully developed and implemented. Whether the patient safety actually has improved will be evaluated by assessing the number of reports of adverse events involving drug labelling.

