

# THE ASSORTMENT COUNCIL SECURES THAT MEDICAL PRODUCTS & INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE TO NURSES, PHYSICIANS & PHARMACISTS

A Good Practice Initiative presented by hospital pharmacists: Katja Heikkinen<sup>1</sup> & Charlotta Vinterflod<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>katja.heikkinen@vgregion.se - Regional Hospital Pharmacy

<sup>2</sup>charlotta.vinterflod@vgregion.se - Sahlgrenska University Hospital

<sup>1,2</sup>The Assortment Council at Regional Hospital Pharmacy, Region Västra Götaland

## WHAT WAS DONE?

The Hospital Pharmacy in Region Västra Götaland, Sweden, established an assortment council that assists buyers of medical products within the region. A defined assortment was created aiming to direct healthcare professionals to order procured, recommended and cost-efficient medicines, thus enabling structured availability monitoring.

## WHY WAS IT DONE?

Correct information is fundamental to achieving an effective and secure supply chain of medical products. The ASSORTMENT COUNCIL's mission is to secure that the correct product and product information is available as well as in case of shortages assist with alternative products and information. This reduces time spent on ordering, delivery time is shortened and finding information is more efficient.

## HOW WAS IT DONE?

A council of pharmacists was formed to administrate a DEFINED ASSORTMENT consisting of 95% of the most commonly used medical products. The availability is monitored daily and every disruption of supply is handled in a structured way. Alternative marketed or unlicensed medical products are identified and information about these are communicated through Region Västra Götaland's ordering system or by newsletters. The ASSORTMENT COUNCIL also collaborates with the region's MEDICAL SPECIALISTS and DRUG & THERAPEUTICS' COMMITTEE when searching alternatives. If an equivalent product is available, it will be delivered automatically without the need for placing a new order.

## WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

The defined assortment has been reduced from 6000 products to approximately 3000. In 2018, in addition to the daily updated availability information, 14300 orders out of 410000 were automatically replaced with an equivalent product and 41 newsletters about shortages were published. Nurses get more time for patient care when shortages information is readily available, and replacement of equivalent products can be delivered automatically.

## WHAT NEXT?

By implementing this way of working in other hospital regions or on a national level, caregivers would be able to find quality assured information about shortages and alternatives in an efficient manner, consequently freeing up resources and enabling further focus on patient care.



Scan QR-code and share!

