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# **The Role of the Patient Safety Officer**

Ralph So, intensivist and chief quality officer

There is no conflict of interest for this presentation/ session

## Introduction

## Pitches

- Iwan Meynaar      PSO    the Netherlands
- Kyra Schneider    PSO    Hessen, Germany
- Jürgen Graf        CEO    Hessen, Germany

## Dialogue/ Mentimeter<sup>R</sup>

## Wrap up

## The three numbers you need to know about healthcare: the 60-30-10 Challenge

60% of care: evidence of consensus-based guidelines

30% of care: “waste” of low value care

10% of care: adverse events

“The 60-30-10 challenge has persisted for three decades ...”

# The New Patient Safety Officer: A Lifeline for Patients, A Life Jacket for CEOs

The PSO role is a moving target, because the basic educational eligibility, required competencies, tasks and responsibilities and most effective organizational structure are not yet firmly established.



Organization-specific factors:  
“Leadership, resources, system”

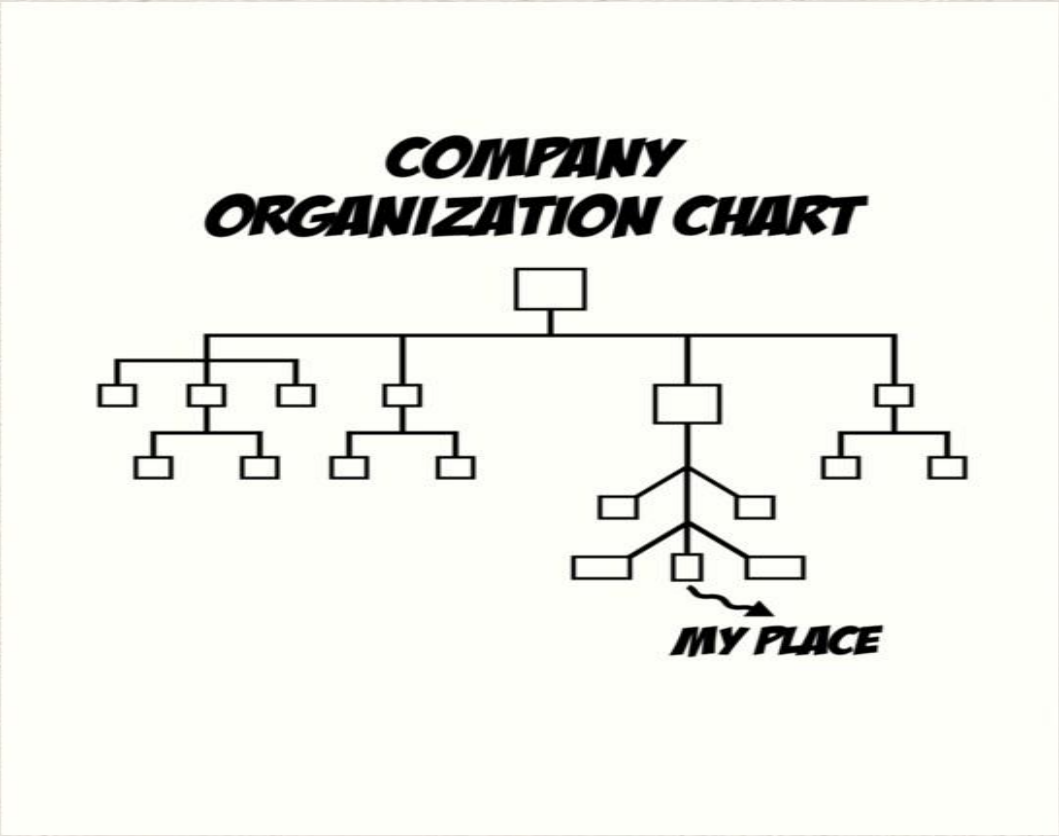
“First do no harm” as a strategic priority !

Berwick DM. Constancy of Purpose for Improving Patient Safety - Missing in Action.  
N Engl J Med. 2023 Jan 12;388(2):181-182.

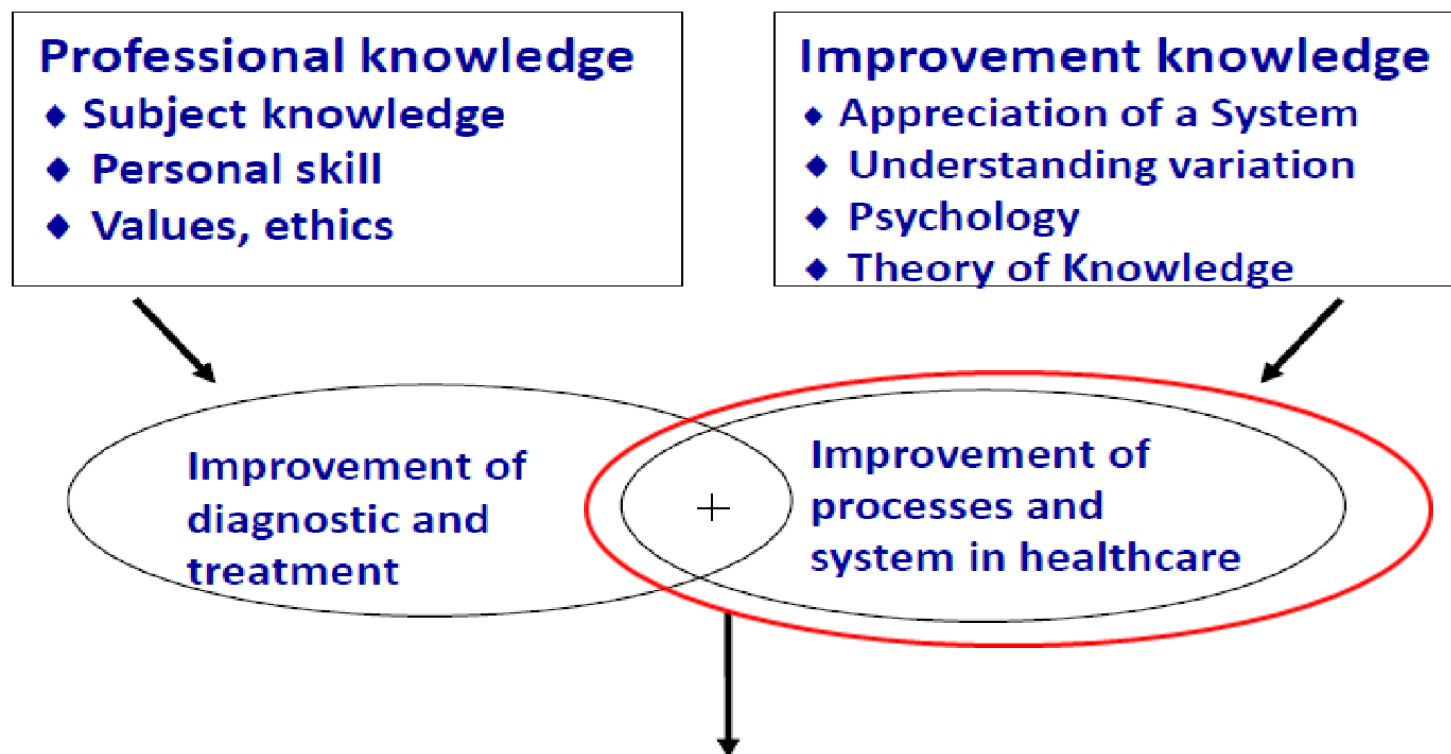




“Designing the position”



## "Education and experience"



**Higher value for the patients**

Batalden PB, Stoltz PK. A framework for the continual improvement of health care: building and applying professional and improvement knowledge to test changes in daily work. *Jt Comm J Qual Improv.* 1993 Oct;19(10):424-47; discussion 448-52.



# ”Learning Networks”

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Institute of Medicine. 2007. *The Learning Healthcare System: Workshop Summary*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Britto MT, Fuller SC, Kaplan HC, Kotagal U, Lannon C, Margolis PA, Muething SE, Schoettker PJ, Seid M. Using a network organisational architecture to support the development of Learning Healthcare Systems. *BMJ Qual Saf*. 2018 Nov;27(11):937-946.





## Pitches

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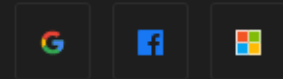
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The PSO role is a moving target, because the basic educational eligibility, required competencies, tasks and responsibilities and most effective organizational structure are not yet firmly established.

“Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets”

Leadership

Embedding PSO

Competencies/ education

Learning networks



Contact: [r.so@asz.nl](mailto:r.so@asz.nl)

## References

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- Berwick DM. Constancy of Purpose for Improving Patient Safety - Missing in Action. *N Engl J Med.* 2023 Jan 12;388(2):181-182.
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- Vincent C, Amalberti R. *Safer Healthcare: Strategies for the Real World* [Internet]. Cham (CH): Springer; 2016.
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- <https://www.who.int/teams/integrated-health-services/patient-safety/policy/global-patient-safety-action-plan#:~:text=This%20global%20action%20plan%20was,%2C%20every%20time%2C%20everywhere%E2%80%9D.>
- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/patient-safety/the-nhs-patient-safety-strategy/>
- <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241501958>
- <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Curriculum%20Guidance%20for%20Delivering%20the%20NHS%20Patient%20Safety%20Syllabus.pdf>



# The role of the Patient Safety Officer

Iwan Meynaar, MD, PhD, intensivist, PSO 2013-2021

April 11th, 2024

International Forum





## Kubler Ross' Change Management Model





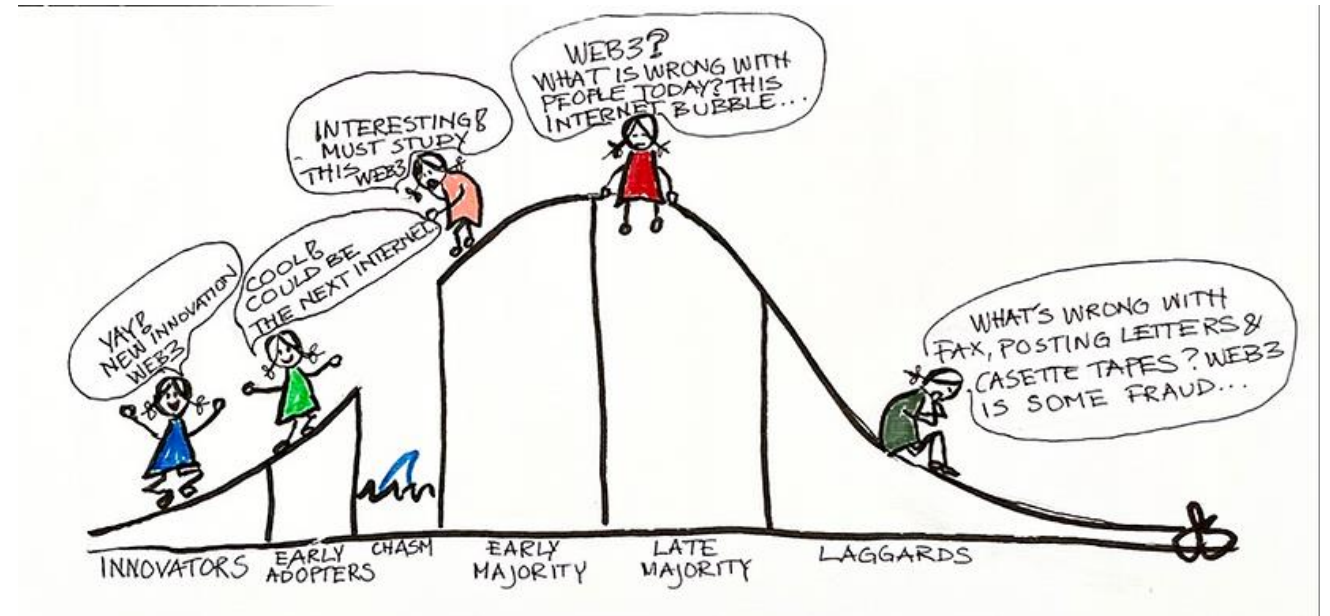
2004

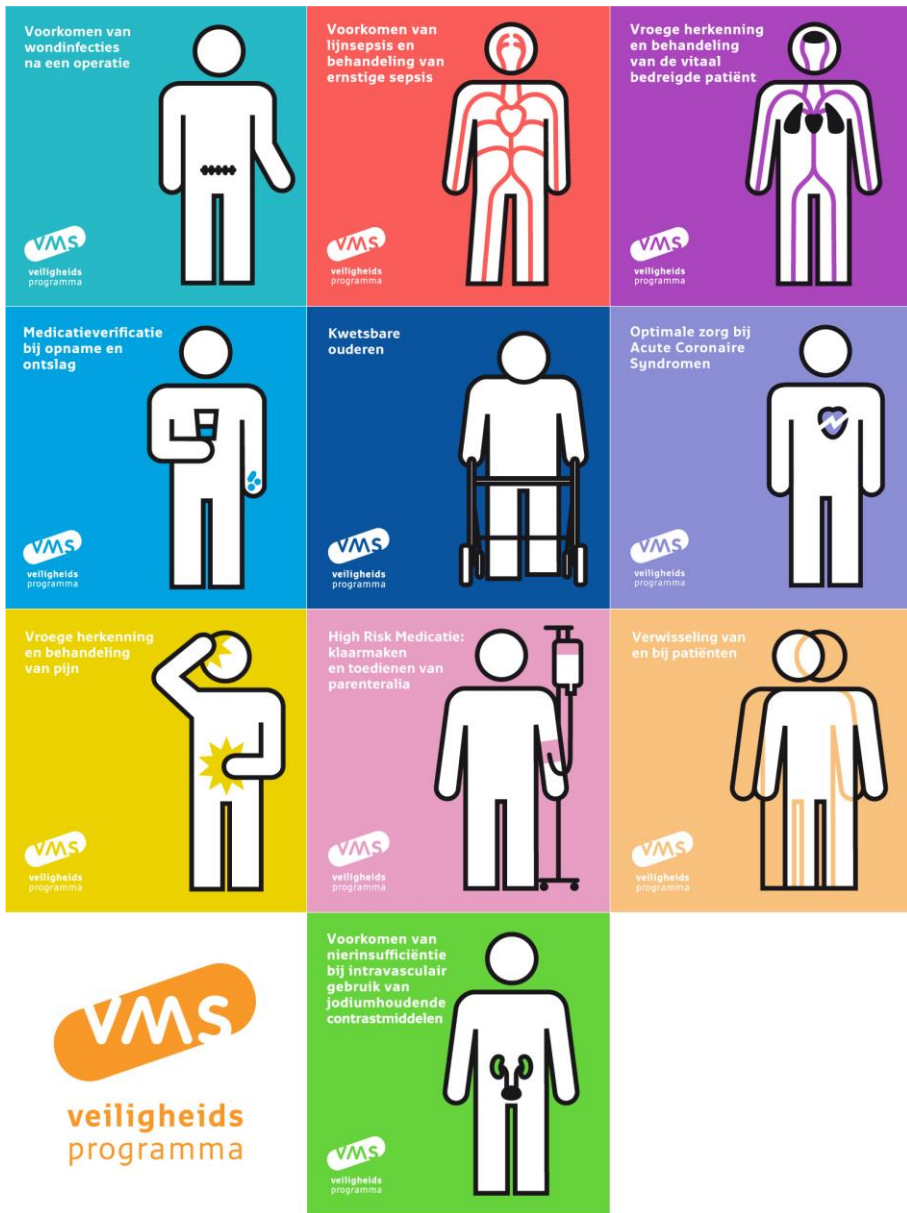
You either work safely or you don't work here

1. Establish a safety management system in all hospitals
2. Hold hospitals boards responsible and accountable for patient safety
3. Have healthcare insurance companies check patient safety
4. Let the government act decisively and responsibly

# Onbedoelde schade in Nederlandse ziekenhuizen

April 2007





2008

## Dutch Patient Safety Programme

- 10 themes (e.g. rapid response team, medication safety, acute coronary syndrome, children, sepsis, contrast induced renal failure, pain).
- Best practices and toolkits available
- **Inspectorate checks compliance**
- **Hospital boards are responsible and accountable**



## Quality and Safety departments & Patient Safety Officers

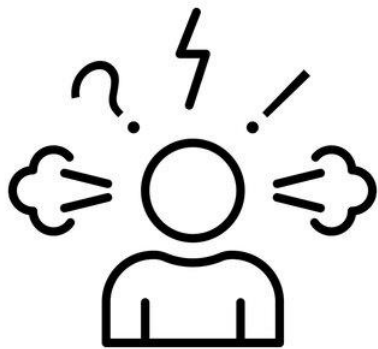
# The Patient Safety Officer



Change manager  
Negotiator  
Visionary  
Scape goat  
Implementation scientist  
Statistician



5 legged sheep  
High frustration tolerance



# The (Dutch) Patient Safety Officer

- Most often a doctor (consultant)
- Combines clinical practice with being a safety officer (50/50?)
- Some PSO's are also medical head of the Quality and Safety department

## Helpful to the PSO personally

- Find allies
- Resilience and diplomacy
- Being able to handle conflicts constructively (tough on the issue, soft on the person)
- Know theory and practice of QI and change management

Not helpful: the opposite

## Helpful to the PSO from an organizational point of view

- Quality leadership from the board
- Patient safety management system
- Patient involvement
- Incidents (never waste a good crisis)
- Healthcare inspectorate
- Data
- National safety management programme
- Culture!!

# National Platform Medical Patient Safety Officers

- Since 2013
- 100+ members
- Networkgroup of the Dutch Federation of Medical Specialists (FMS)
- Knowledge centre
- Networking
- Teaching and discussion sessions on diverse QI themes three times a year
  - Peer support
  - Incident analysis
  - Crew resource management
  - etc
- Website



Federatie  
**Medisch  
Specialisten**



2000: to err is human

2004: you either work safely or you don't work here at all

2007: **1735** preventable deaths in 2004 (1,3 million admissions)

2008: start national patient safety programme

2010: **1960** preventable deaths in 2008

2013: **968** preventable deaths in 2011

2013: national society for PSO's

2017: **1035** preventable deaths in 2015

2022: **1018** preventable deaths in 2019

2020: start new national safety programme **Time to Connect**

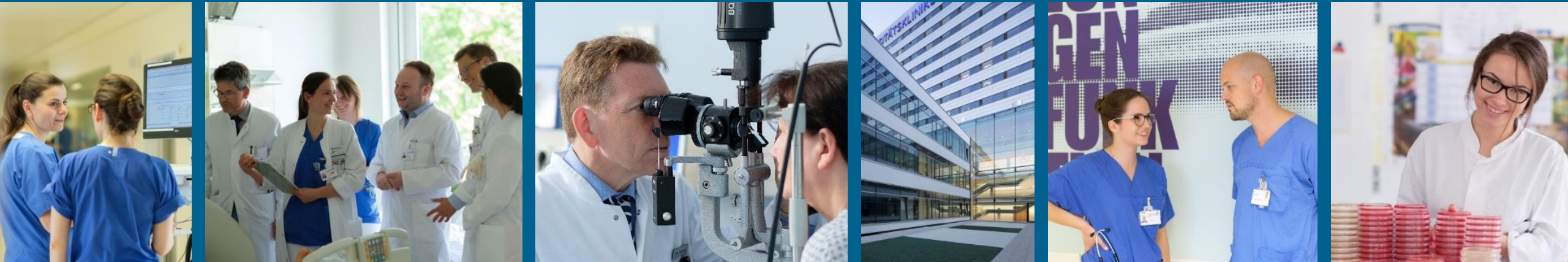
2024: focus on Safety II, multidisciplinary reflection, elderly, anticoagulation



# THE ROLE OF THE PATIENT SAFETY OFFICER (PSO)

## THE HESSIAN WAY

IHI 2024 | London, UK – April 11<sup>th</sup> 2024



# Agenda

- Introduction
- Patient Safety Regulation in the State of Hesse
- Curriculum
- Network
- Take-home messages



# The role of the Patient Safety Officer (PSO) in Hesse



## Patient Safety Regulation (PaSV)

**Patientensicherheitsverordnung  
(PaSV)  
Vom 30. Oktober 2019**

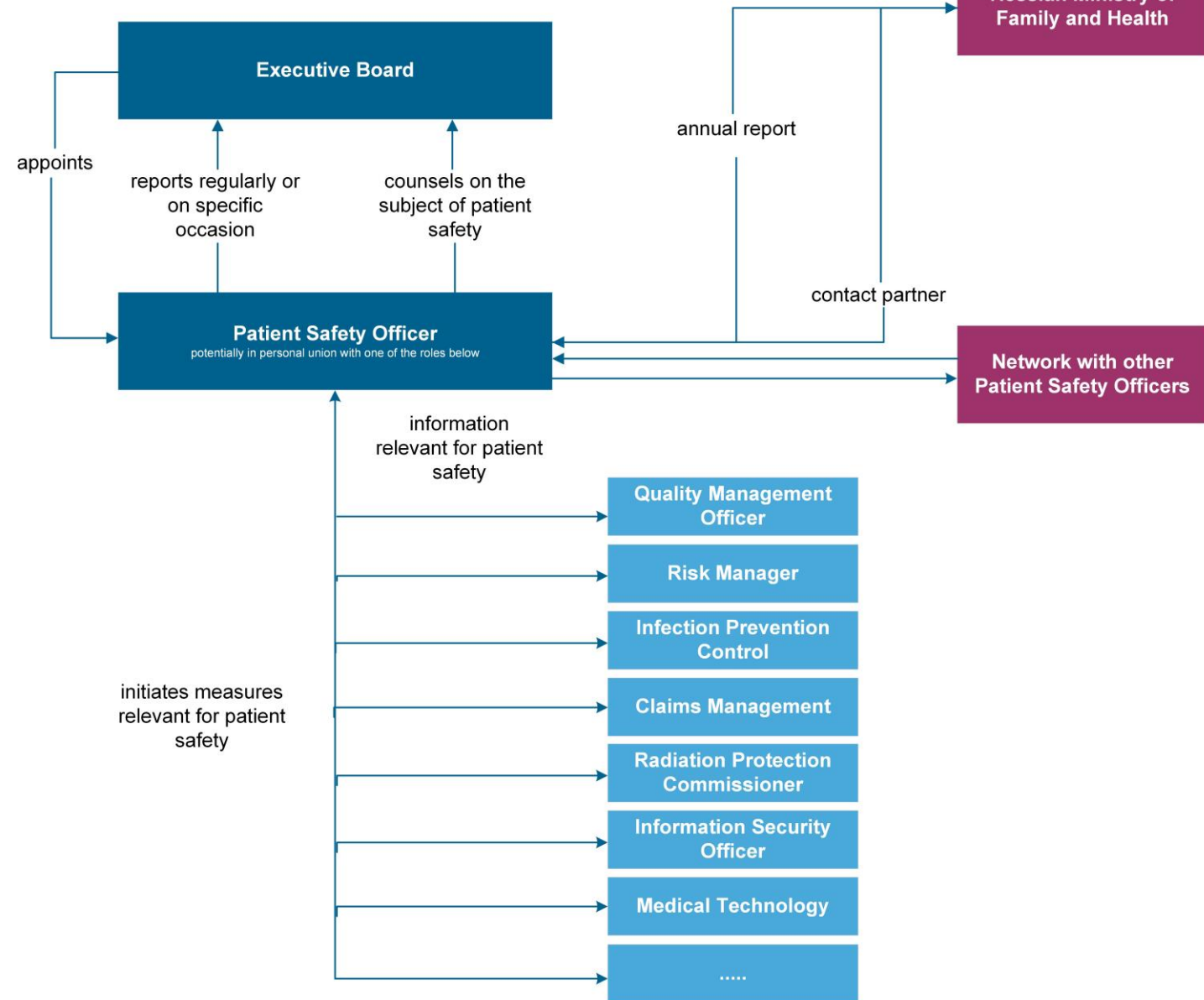
*Gesamtausgabe in der Gültigkeit vom 13.11.2019 bis 31.12.2024*

**Nichtamtliches Inhaltsverzeichnis**

Titel	
Patientensicherheitsverordnung (PaSV) vom 30. Oktober 2019	13.11.2019 bis 31.12.2024
Eingangsformel	13.11.2019 bis 31.12.2024
§ 1 - Landesbeirat Patientensicherheit, Begriffsbestimmung	13.11.2019 bis 31.12.2024
§ 2 - Patientensicherheitsbeauftragte	13.11.2019 bis 31.12.2024
§ 3 - Aufgaben der oder des Patientensicherheitsbeauftragten	13.11.2019 bis 31.12.2024
§ 4 - Berichtspflichten	13.11.2019 bis 31.12.2024
§ 5 - Auskunftspflicht	13.11.2019 bis 31.12.2024
§ 6 - Übergangsvorschrift	13.11.2019 bis 31.12.2024
§ 7 - Inkrafttreten, Außerkrafttreten	13.11.2019 bis 31.12.2024

# Role and Tasks of the PSO

- Main Tasks**
- development of the safety culture
  - development and implementation of measures
  - assessing the clinical risks



# Curriculum based on the WHO Curriculum

Day 1

**The System – WHO 1-7**

Context, Complex Systems, Understanding and managing clinical risks, Quality Improvement, Human Factors

Day 2

**Patient Safety – The Topics – WHO 5, 8-11**

Communication, Intervention for Improvement of Patient Safety (Medication Safety, Medical Equipment, Infection and Prevention, Communication with patients and relatives....

Day 3

**Focus Role of the PSO**

Interfaces at the transition of patient care, Safety culture, Role of the PSO, Factors for obstacles and success, First steps, Evaluation/ Exam

## Success factors

- Mixed lecturers
- Use of **actvated** learning methods
- Face-to-face training
- Focus on the role of the Patient Safety Officer

# The PSO Network in Hesse

## Goal:

Improvement of patient safety  
in hessian hospitals  
through exchange of experiences  
and knowledge transfer

Network Organization

Annual Meeting

Homepage

Working groups

Reporting support

Planning  
Patient Safety  
Projects



# Our Results so far ...

- 10 training courses for Patient Safety Officers/130 participants
  - 100 % recommendation rate
  - 8,9 Pts. knowledge increase after 6 months ( $P < 0,0001$ )
  - 59 % positive development of the role of the PS (CEO-Perspective)
- 
- 2 Hessian Patient Safety Reports
  - 80 Network-members
  - 14 PSO-Events



# What I have learned ...

- Embedding in the organization and into the system
  - Support through a network
  - An adapted WHO-Curriculum works
- **Focus on the role of the PSO**





[kyra.schneider@ukffm.de](mailto:kyra.schneider@ukffm.de)

# PATIENT SAFETY OFFICER PERSPECTIVE OF A CEO

IHI 2024 | London, UK – April 11<sup>th</sup> 2024



# INPATIENT HEALTHCARE BASED ON HOSPITALS

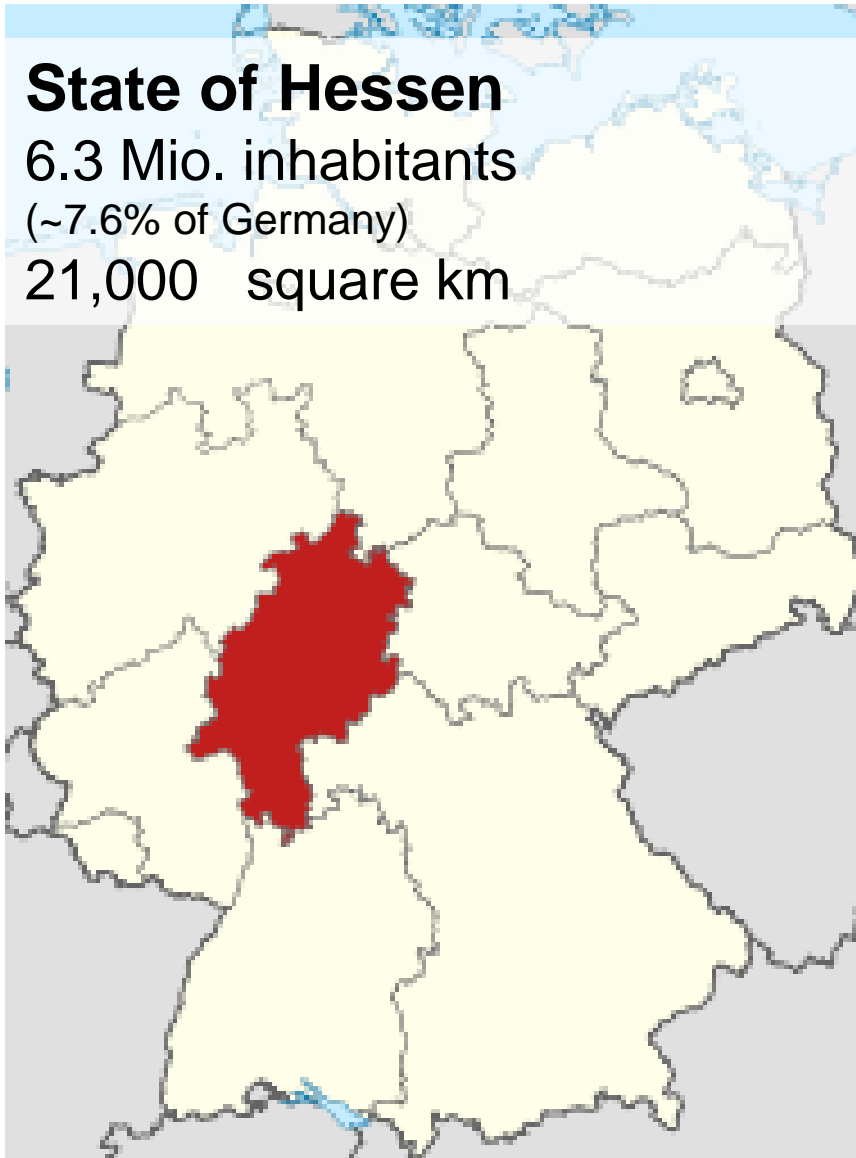
... in Hessen | Germany

## State of Hessen

6.3 Mio. inhabitants

(~7.6% of Germany)

21,000 square km



approximately  
130 hospitals in total  
3 university hospitals

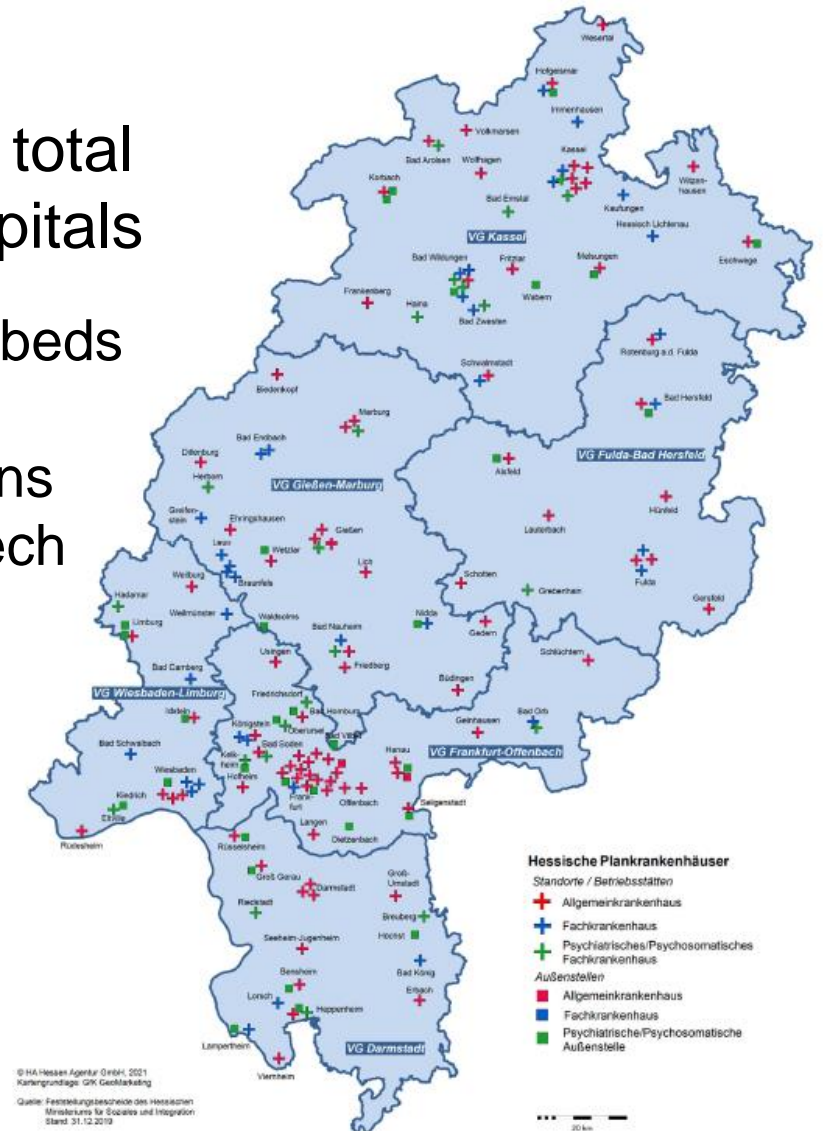
~ 35.000 hospital beds

~ 61.000 nurses

~ 14.000 physicians

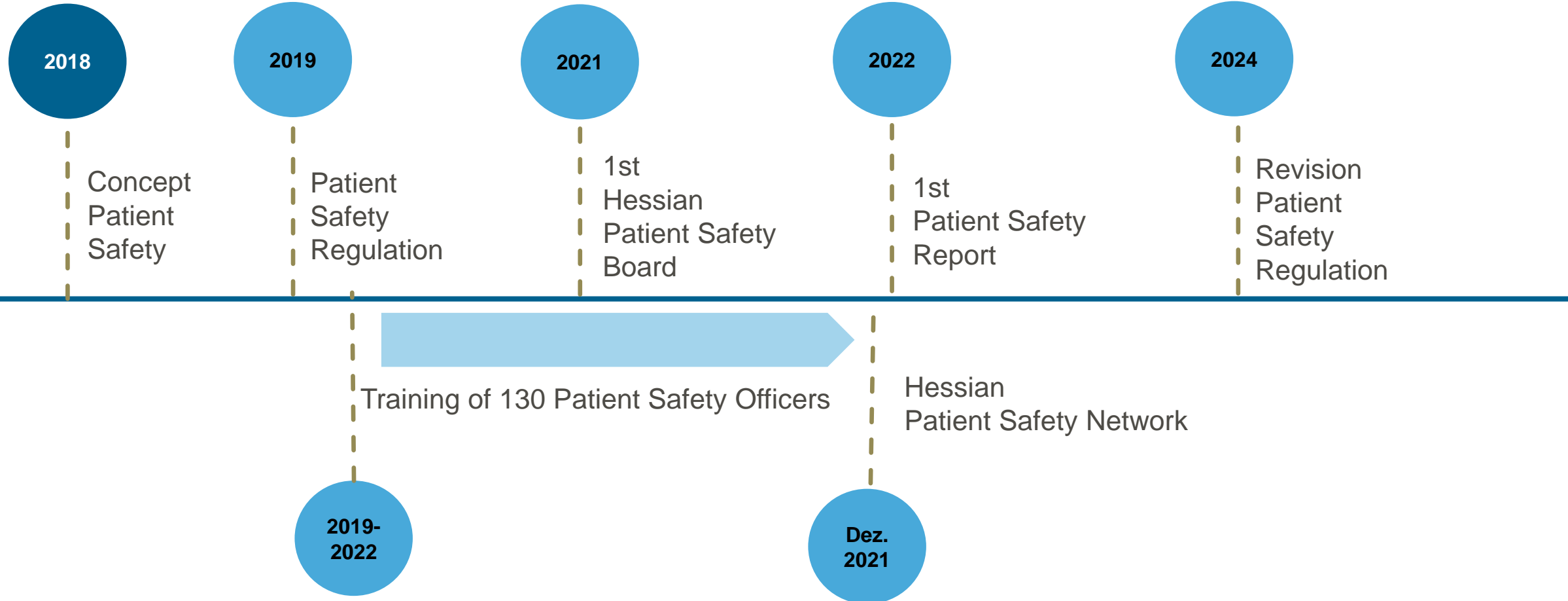
~ 10.000 admin/tech

~ 7.3 days LOS



# FORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF PATIENT SAFETY

... milestones in Hessen | Germany



# PERSPECTIVE ON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

disclaimer: CEO university hospital with industry/airline background

## present responsibilities

**security** of healthcare supply

**affordability** of healthcare

**quality & safety** of services

## future developments

**education** of nurses, physicians & others

**training & qualification** of staff

**research & development** of services

# PERSPECTIVE ON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

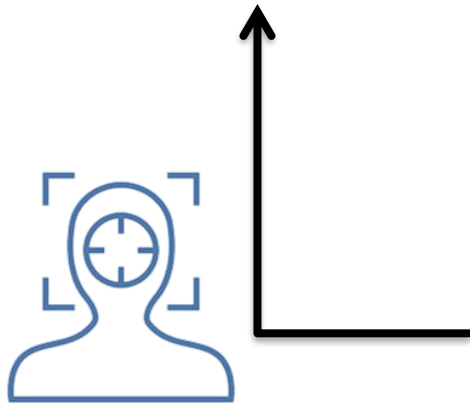
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## present responsibilities

**security** of healthcare supply

**affordability** of healthcare

**quality & safety** of services

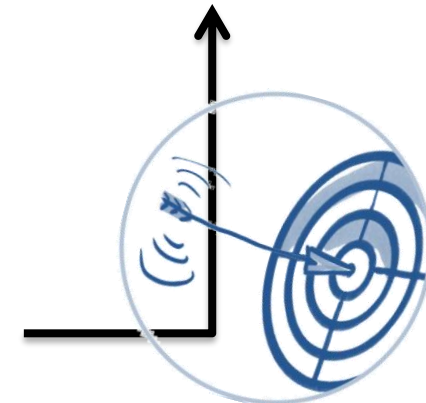


## future developments

**education** of nurses, physicians & others

**training & qualification** of staff

**research & development** of services

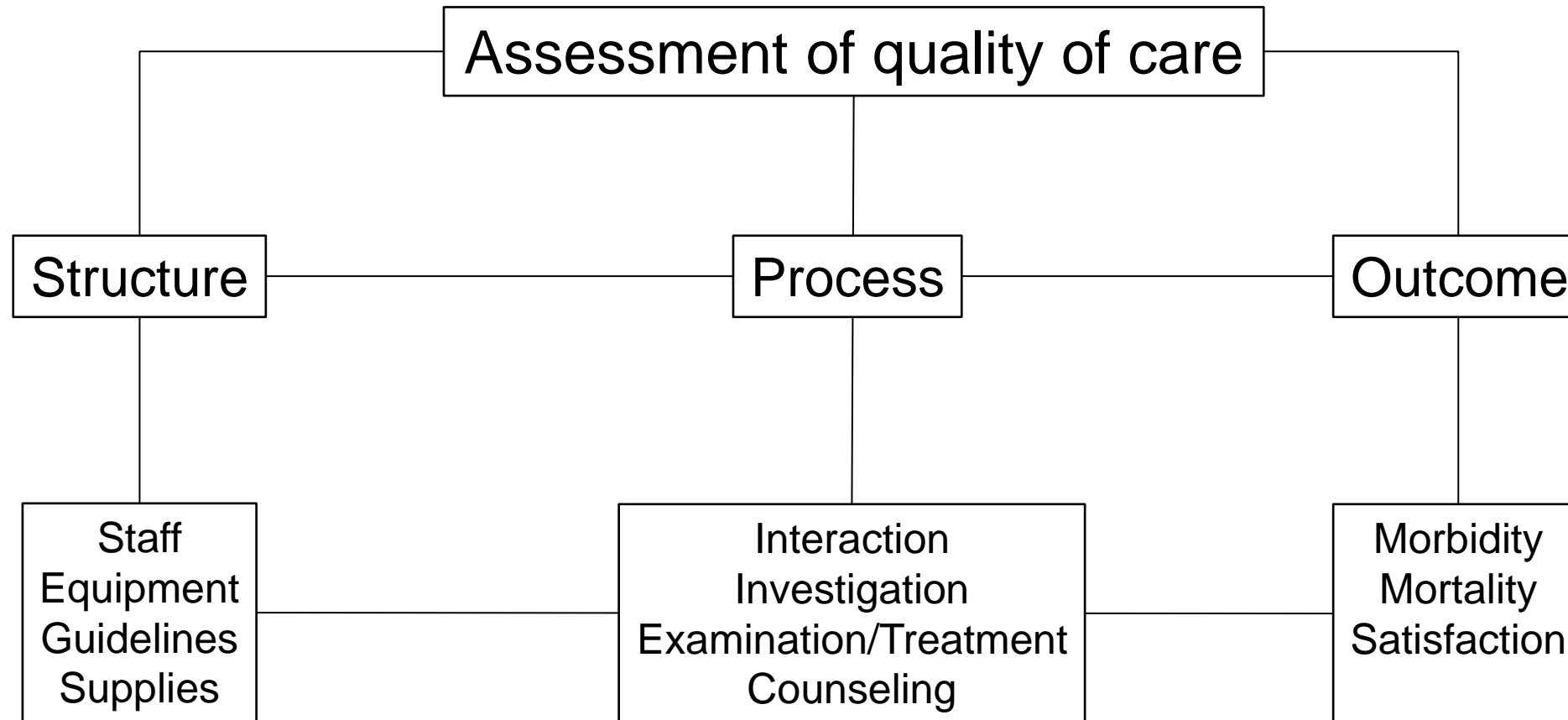


INTERDEPENDENCIES  
SYNERGIES  
SCALABILITY  
LOW COMPLEXITY  
TRANSPARENCY  
LEAN MANAGEMENT  
[...]



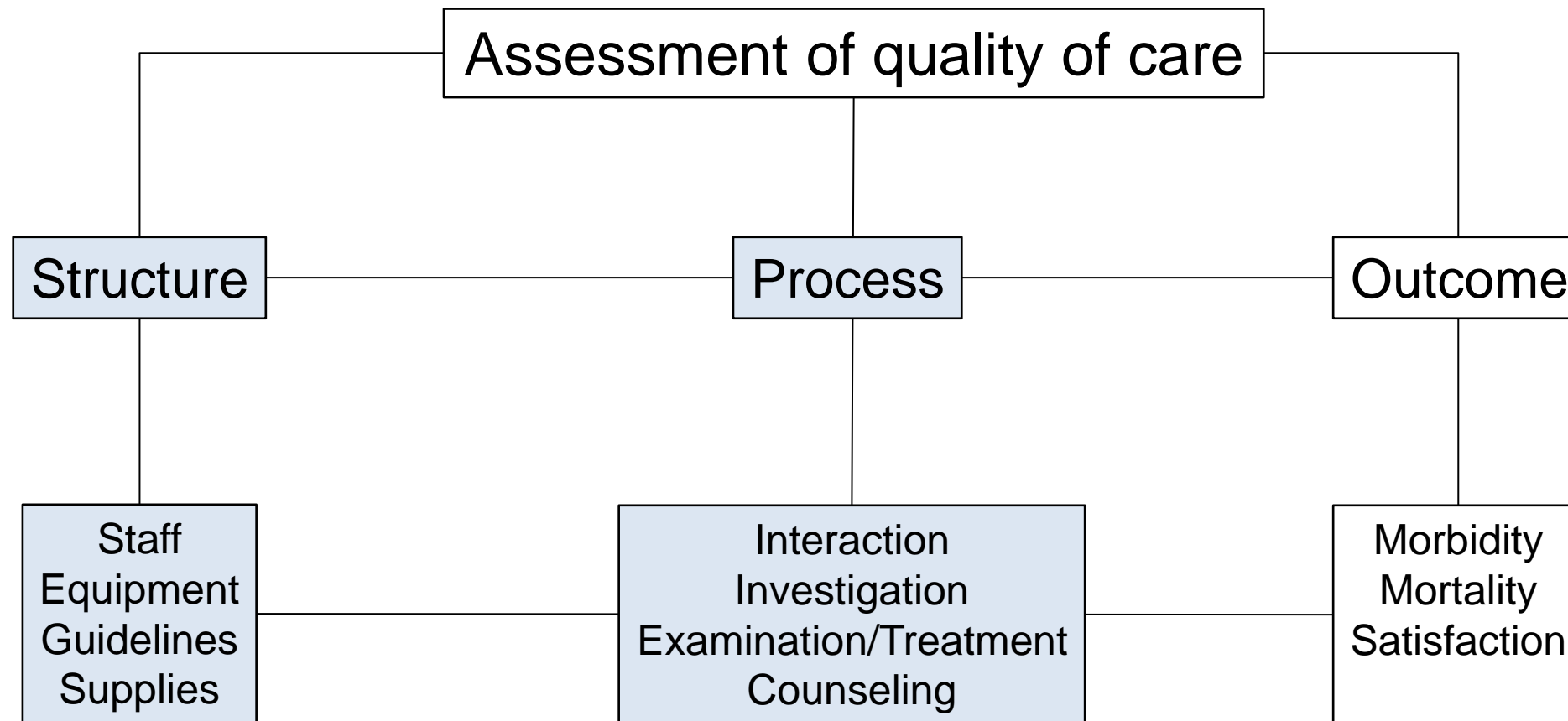
# PERSPECTIVE OF A CEO ON PATIENT SAFETY

Donabedian 1988 | quality-driven | value based



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Donabedian 1988 | quality-driven | value based

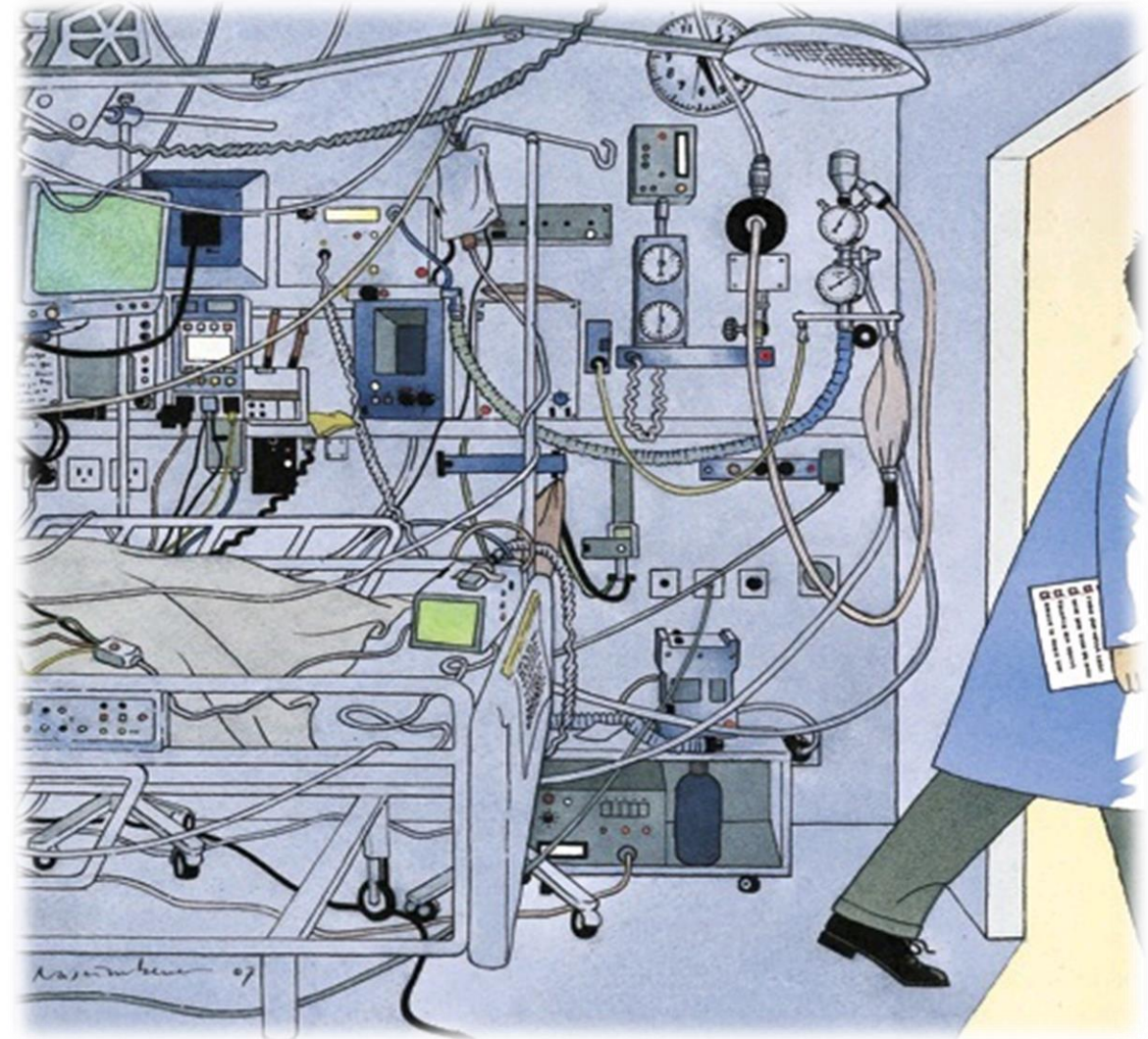
- ✓ What is the added value of patient safety?
  - employee & patient satisfaction
  - organisational strength / performance
  - recognition & reputation
- ✓ What are the risks of focusing on patient safety?
  - organisational complexity
  - loss of supply density | resource utilization
  - costs of communication, training & services



# PERSPECTIVE OF A CEO ON PATIENT SAFETY

Donabedian 1988 | quality-driven | value based

- ✓ What is the policy on patient safety?
  - everybody
  - any time
  - anywhere
  
- ✓ How to execute patient safety
  - top down
  - bottom up
  - vice versa
  
- ✓ What is hardest to achieve?
  - measurability of success



# TAKE HOME MESSAGE ON PATIENT SAFETY

The Myth of Sisyphus – Albert Camus, 1942

"The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart.

One must imagine Sisyphus happy."



# TAKE HOME MESSAGE ON PATIENT SAFETY

The Myth of Sisyphus – Albert Camus, 1942

"The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart.

One must imagine Sisyphus happy."

**START AGAIN EVERY DAY!**

**NEVER GIVE UP!**



We are convinced that there is no greater and more effective means of mutual education than working together.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe \*1749 bis †1832



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