

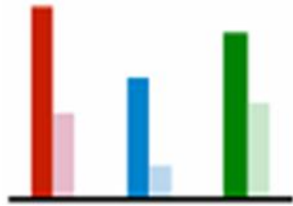


# How to manage clinical risk

**Hanne Tønnesen MD PHD**  
**Professor, Chief Physician**



# Twin Centres: DK + SE



RESEARCH



EDUCATION



SCIENTIFIC  
JOURNAL



HPH



CLINICAL EFFECT  
DATABASES





# Overview

- Definition and introduction
- Walk through the performance needs
  - Know how to report risks / hazards in the workplace
  - Keep accurate and complete health care records
  - Know when and how to ask for help
  - Participate in meetings on CRM & patient safety
  - Respond to patients/families after adverse events
  - Respond to complains
- A new guide to implementation
- Look into practice
- CASE Discussion



# Definition

- An approach to improving the quality and safety of healthcare by:
  1. identifying what places patients at risk of harm
  2. taking action to prevent or control the risks



# Goals

## Proactive

- Risk **identification**
- Harm, injury, and loss **prevention**
- System and process **control**
- Severity **reduction**



# Target groups of CRM

- Patients and their families
- Staff and the hospital/health care
- Future patients and staff

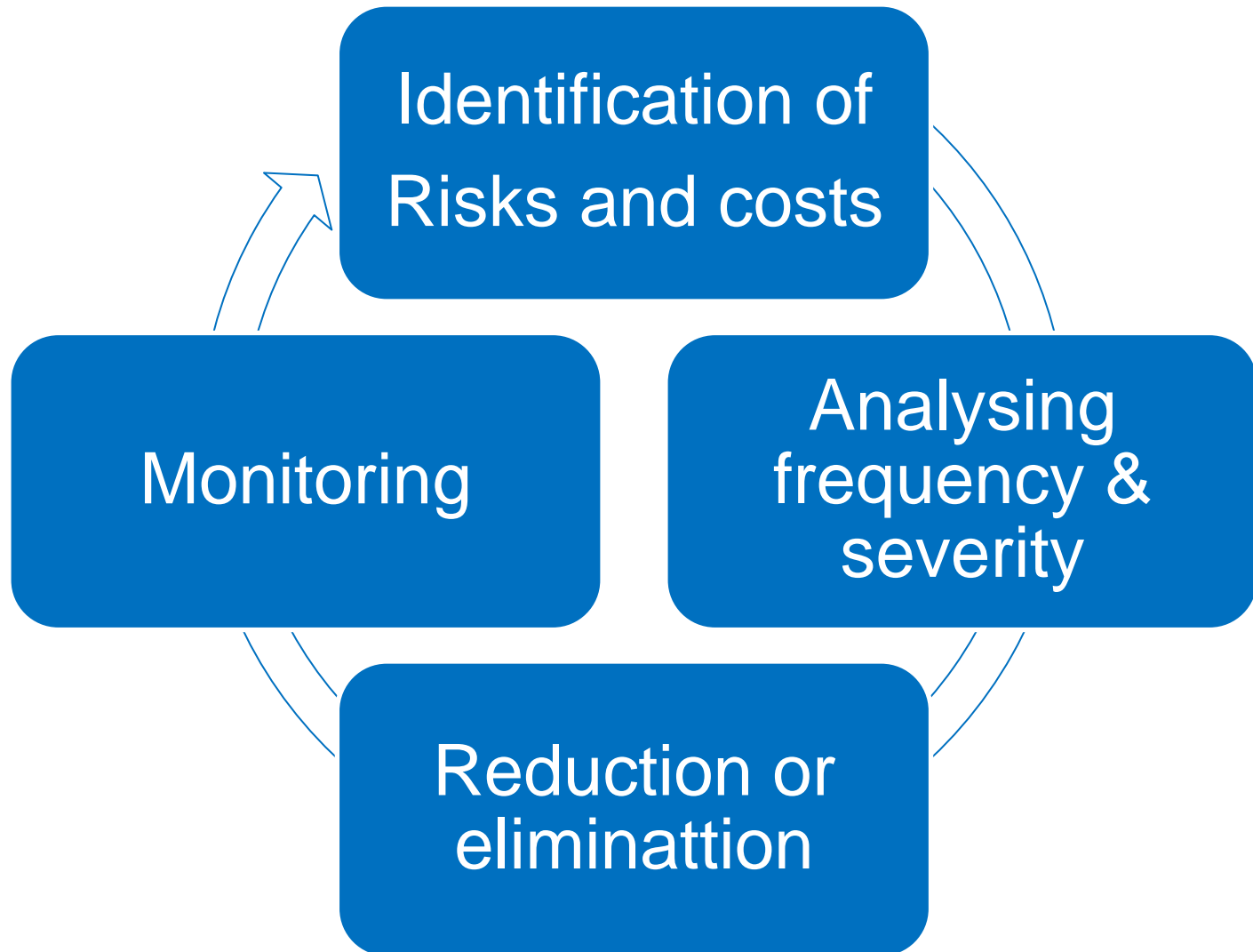


# CRM process

- Identify the risk and the costs
- Analyse the risk
  - assess the frequency and severity
- Reduce or eliminate the risk
  - select implementation strategy
- Monitor the effect



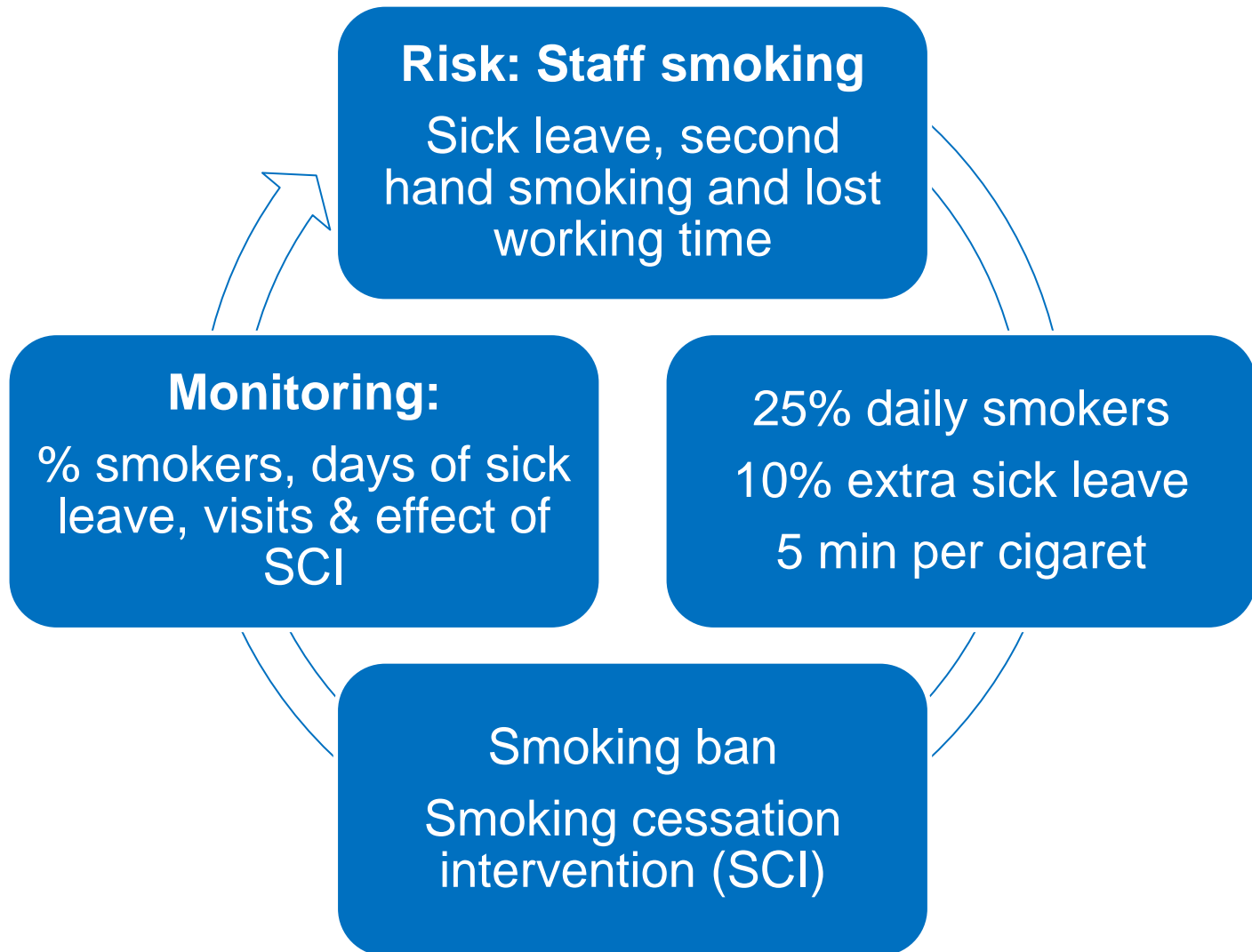
# The cyclic process





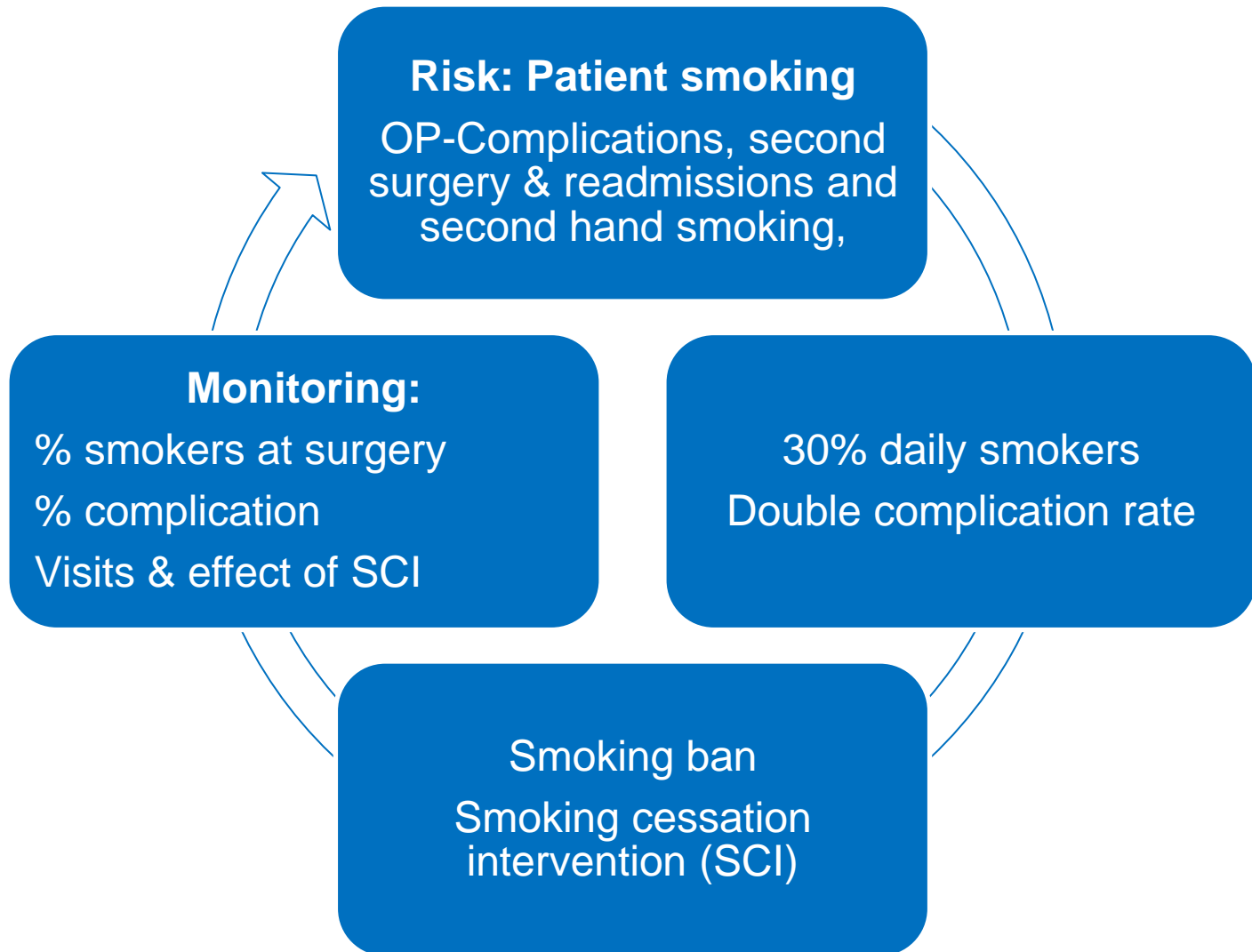


# An example





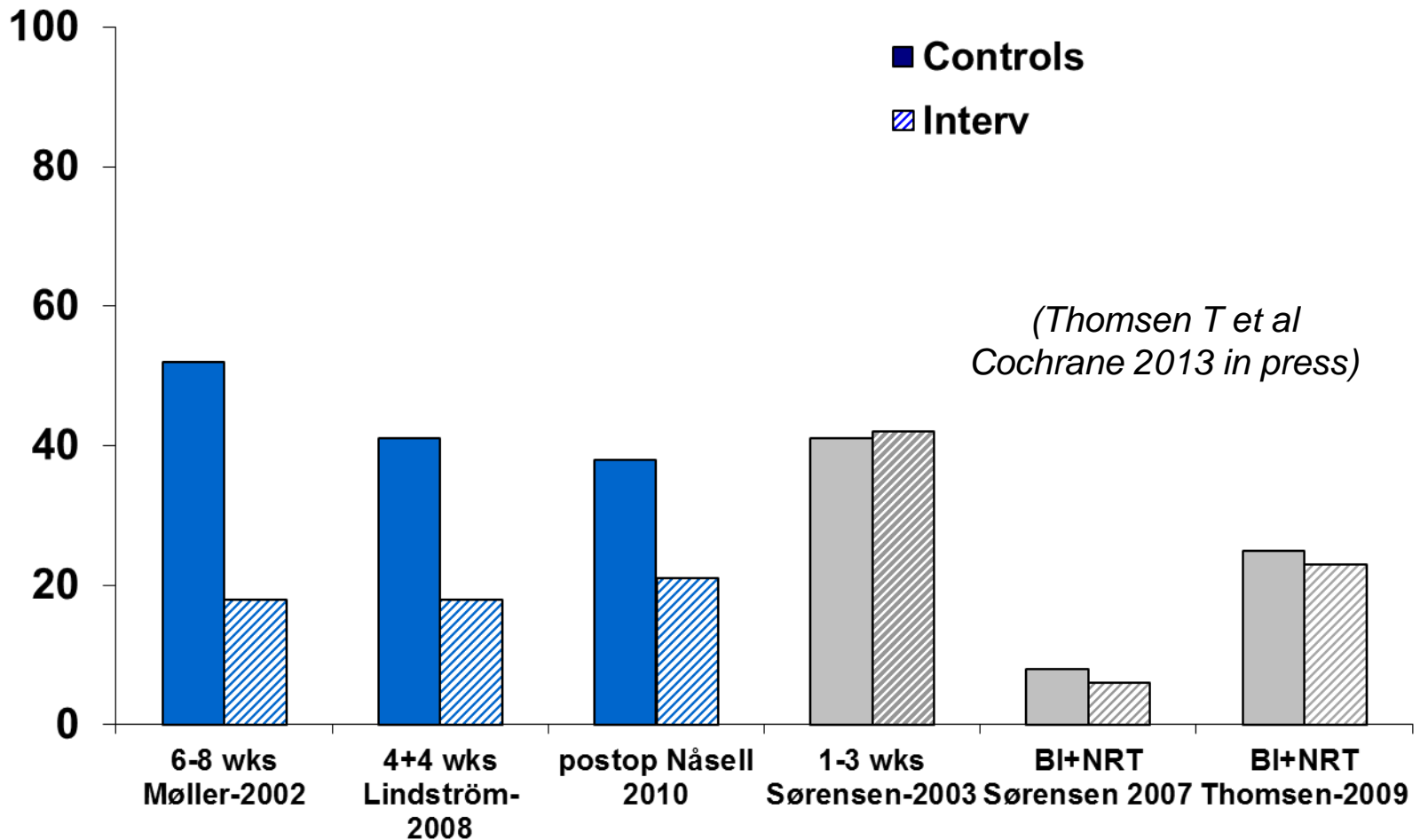
# Another example: Surgery





# Perioperative SCI: 10 RCTs

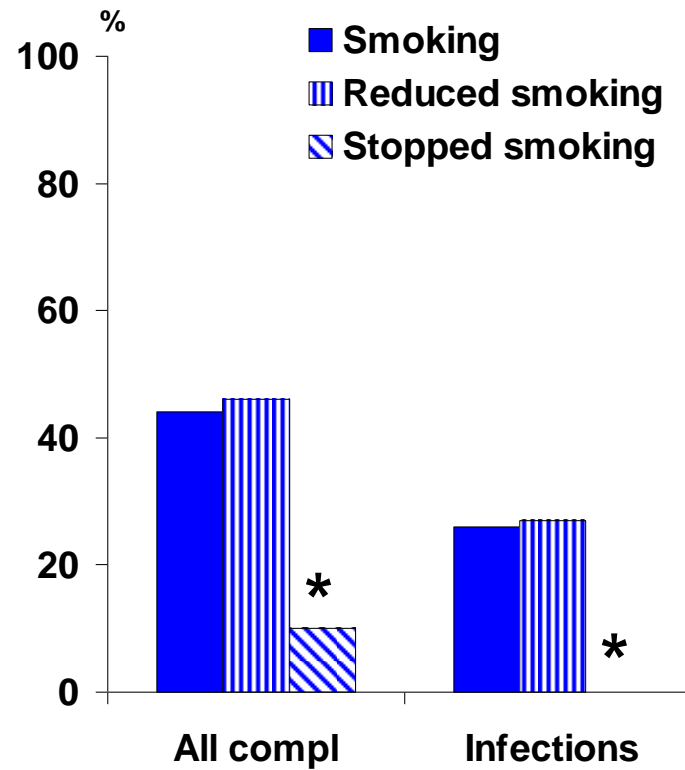
## 6 included complications





# Effect on postop compl

6-8 weeks intervention before knee / hip replacement



AM Møller et al: Lancet 2002



According to repeated nationwide surveys,

# More Doctors Smoke **CAMELS** than any other cigarette!

Doctors in every branch of medicine were asked, "What cigarette do you smoke?" The brand named most was Camel!

You'll enjoy Camels for the same reasons so many doctors enjoy them. Camels have cool, mildness, pack after pack, and a flavor unmatched by any other cigarette. Make this sensible test: Smoke only Camels for 30 days and see how well Camels please your taste, how well they suit your throat as your steady smoke. You'll see how enjoyable a cigarette can be!

THE DOCTORS' CHOICE IS AMERICA'S CHOICE!



**MARJORIE D'AMICO** says "I smoke Camels. They agree with my throat and taste wonderful!"



**DICK NICHOLS** says "I get more pleasure from Camels than from any other brand!"



**RALPH BELLAMY** reports "Camels suit my taste and throat. I've smoked 'em for years!"



For 30 days, test Camels in your "T-Zone" (T for Throat, T for Taste).



# Smoking ban





# Know how to report risks / hazards in the workplace

- This could happen for all staff, so all should have documented skills in reporting
- The easiest way to do this is an e-learning program
  - Few cases (easy to use)
  - Certificate after completed successfully
- **Participate in meetings on feed-back and action – and learn**



# Keep accurate and complete health care records

- Old tradition
  - Only write positive diagnoses, treatment and results
  - Everything else have been examined and found to be negative or without relevance
- New tradition
  - Always describe the relevant elements, positive or negative, including areas of priority
    - Allergy: not allergic to penicillin, bandages, etc
    - Non-smoker since 2008
- **Participate in meetings on feed-back and action – and learn**





# Know when and how to ask for help

- **Old tradition** (my own responsibility)
  - I can do everything my-self
  - I have to continue trying many times before I ask the senior officer
- **New tradition** (shared responsibility)
  - The senior officer walk through the procedure on forhand and follow-up during or afterwords
  - I ask for help if I foresee problems or enter problems that I can not solve
- **Participate in meetings on feed-back and action – and learn**



# Inspector at Nat Board of Health

- In DK we have Inspectors in all medical disciplines
- Validation of young physicians' education – in reality: site visits
- Self-evaluation form, report and FU
  - The department
  - The Inspectors (2-3)



# Responses

- "The young doctors are lazy"
- "We give them all opportunities to learn, but they don't want to participate"
- "The senior surgeons do not want to teach and train"
- "They never give away the scalpel or endoscope"

**Actions: Communication course !**

**Tools for documentation and FU**



# Participate in meetings on CRM & patient safety

## The meetings

- involve all disciplines and level relevant
- take place on regular basis – e.g. once a month
- include results from monitoring and others
- have a clear agenda, e.g.
  - Status / Follow-up from previous meetings
  - New problems, facts/results, discussion, learning
  - Decision on action and follow-up

## Root cause analyses



# Respond appropriately after adverse events

- An injury caused by medical management—rather than by the underlying disease
  - The etiology include drug effects, infections, technical complications, negligence, diagnostic and therapeutic malpractice and others
- Serious adverse events
  - Death, life-threatening, hospitalization, permanent damage, birth defects and similar



# Do

- Initiate the disclosure process as soon as possible after an adverse event
- Express empathy with the patient or family and sympathy for any pain and suffering
- Be prepared to listen to the patient and/or family
- Document the adverse event as soon and factually as possible in the patient record



# Don't

- Lie or cover up
  - Patients want honesty and are more willing to forgive an error than a lie.
- Blame someone else
  - Blaming someone else is an almost certain way of implicating oneself.
- Be defensive
  - Try to meet anger with professionalism and objectivity.
- Use medical jargon



# Overall

- Accept that we all make mistakes
- Take contact to the management, your colleagues and any other supportive group
- Inform the management, department about the case and report to the DB
- **Participate in meetings on feedback and action – and learn**





# Complains

- A complain is defined as an expression of dissatisfaction by a patient, family member or carer with the care provided:
  - Poor communication
  - Suboptimal decision-making
  - Problems with treatment and diagnosis



# Respond appropriately to complains

- **Follow the guidelines (e-learning)**
  - Act promptly, professional without judging
  - Listen and inform about the possibilities to official complains
  - Hand out the folder / documents for complaining and collect them again
  - Inform about the following process
  - Report to the management and database
- **Participate in meetings on feed-back and action – and learn**



# Overall, CRM requires

A new

- Tradition of documentation
- Setting for follow-up and feed-back
- Way of action according to performance
- Method of learning
- Culture of communication
  - Colleagues, across disciplines, patients



# Performance needs

- Know how to report risks / hazards in the workplace
- Keep accurate and complete health care records
- Know when and how to ask for help
- Participate in meetings on CRM & patient safety
- Respond to patients/families after adverse events
- Respond to complains

But what about practice ?



# To day

- Many health care facilities have systems in place for reporting
  - Patient falls, medication errors, retained swabs and misidentification of patients.
- However
  - Most health facilities are only beginning to focus on all of these
  - Reporting of these incidents is often sporadic



# 1) What do we do in practice?

- Identify areas of priority for improvement
  - By coincidence
    - We have just had a case on .....
    - Let us look at .....
  - Sentinel event
    - Unexpected occurrence involving death or serious physical or psychological injury



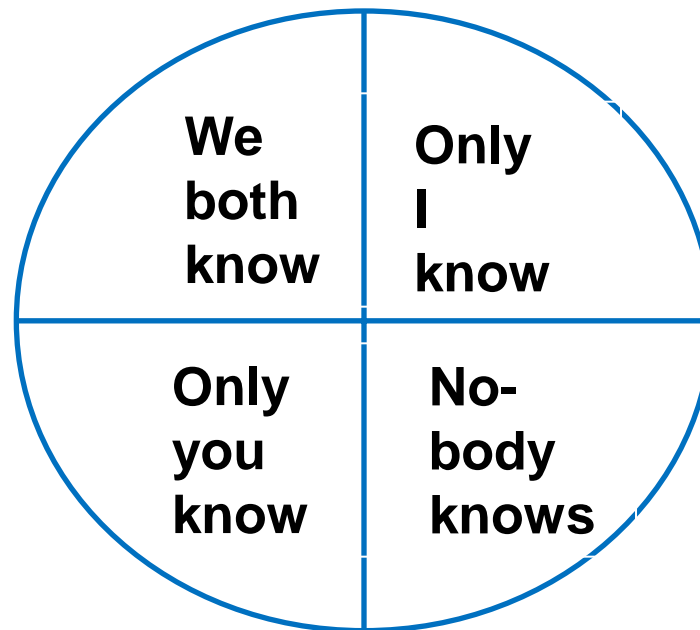
## 2) What do we do in practice?

- Identify areas of priority for improvement
  - Based on assessments
    - Claims reports & Near misses
    - Patient claims & Patient safety alerts
    - Reports and trends of adverse events & unsafe conditions
    - Medical records



# What is the major challenge?

- Implementation
  - A million barriers have been described
  - And more will come (Johari's window)







# What is the major challenge?

- Implementation: Some succeed
  - Clear vision and dedication
  - Have (or develop) ownership to the tool
  - Secure anchorage at the management
  - Local organisation
  - Follow-up and return results (feedback)



Implementation starts with  
you!



# Bottom-up implementation: Preparation

- 1. Get familiar with the tool you want to implement**
- 2. Visit others, learn and network**
- 3. Inform and train any colleague to create experts and owners**
- 4. Start using it your-self, let everybody know what you are doing, discuss, feed with facts and good stories**



# Bottom-up implementation: Strategy

- 5. Prepare and educate all stakeholders**
  - Take the most interested and supportive first
  - Include colleagues from other disciplines
- 6. Create champions at every level**
  - Do not spend time on the resistance
  - Let the champions be the engine
- 7. Senior management endorsement**
  - Emphasize with facts and examples
- 8. Adapt the tool for your organisation**
- 9. Start small, then expand**



# Maintain success & share learning

10. Monitor and record compliance
11. Give feed-back and compare
12. Identify issues that have come up before an error happened
13. Celebrate and reward successes
14. Update the hospital on progress
15. Continue: your lesson learned are essential to others
16. Collect best practice and make SOP

WHO



# ”Smoke-free operation”

- In Northern Sweden the orthopaedic surgeons stopped operating on smokers
- They recommended SCI





# Implementation: Top Down

- **Get familiar with the tool, vision and facts**
  - study visit, meet the "bottom-up person"
- **Connect to the bottom-up strategy**

## **After some progress:**

- **Secure anchorage at management level**
- **Establish policy and framework**
- **Participate in celebrations**
- **Inform and recommend at all levels**
- **Establish SOP and secure continuity**



# Examples on implementation of CRM and Patient Safety





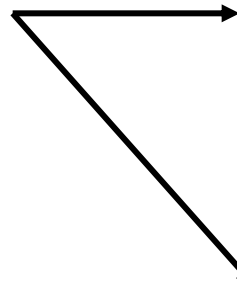
# Factors of importance for the patients' treatment results

- Disease / diagnosis
- Intervention
- Organisation
- Individual patient-related factors
  - Health
    - Diet and nutrition
    - **Smoking**
    - Alcohol
    - Physical activity
  - Co-morbidity (chronic diseases)



# Health Promotion: Patients

Unhealthy  
lifestyle



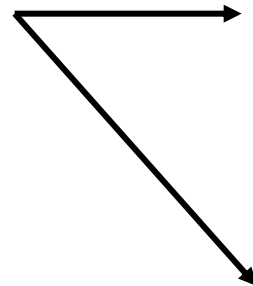
Lifestyle-related physical  
and psychosocial damage

Aggravation of outcome  
and prognosis of other  
diseases & conditions

Intervention



Better  
lifestyle



Reduced lifestyle-related  
damages

Improved outcome &  
prognosis of others  
diseases and conditions

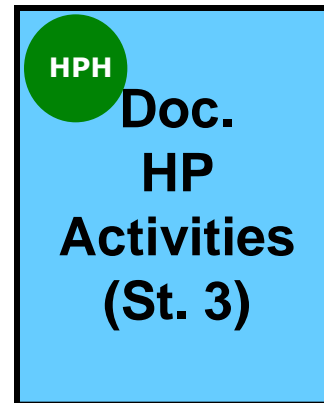
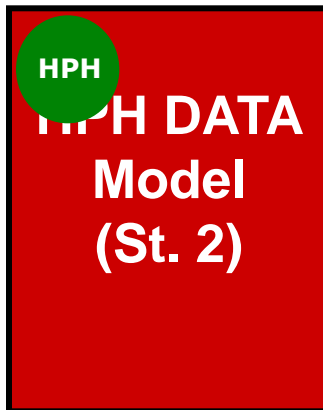


# WHO / HPH Tools

HPH



1. Management policy of HP
2. Patient Assessment
3. Patient Intervention & Info
4. Promoting a healthy workplace
5. Continuity and cooperation



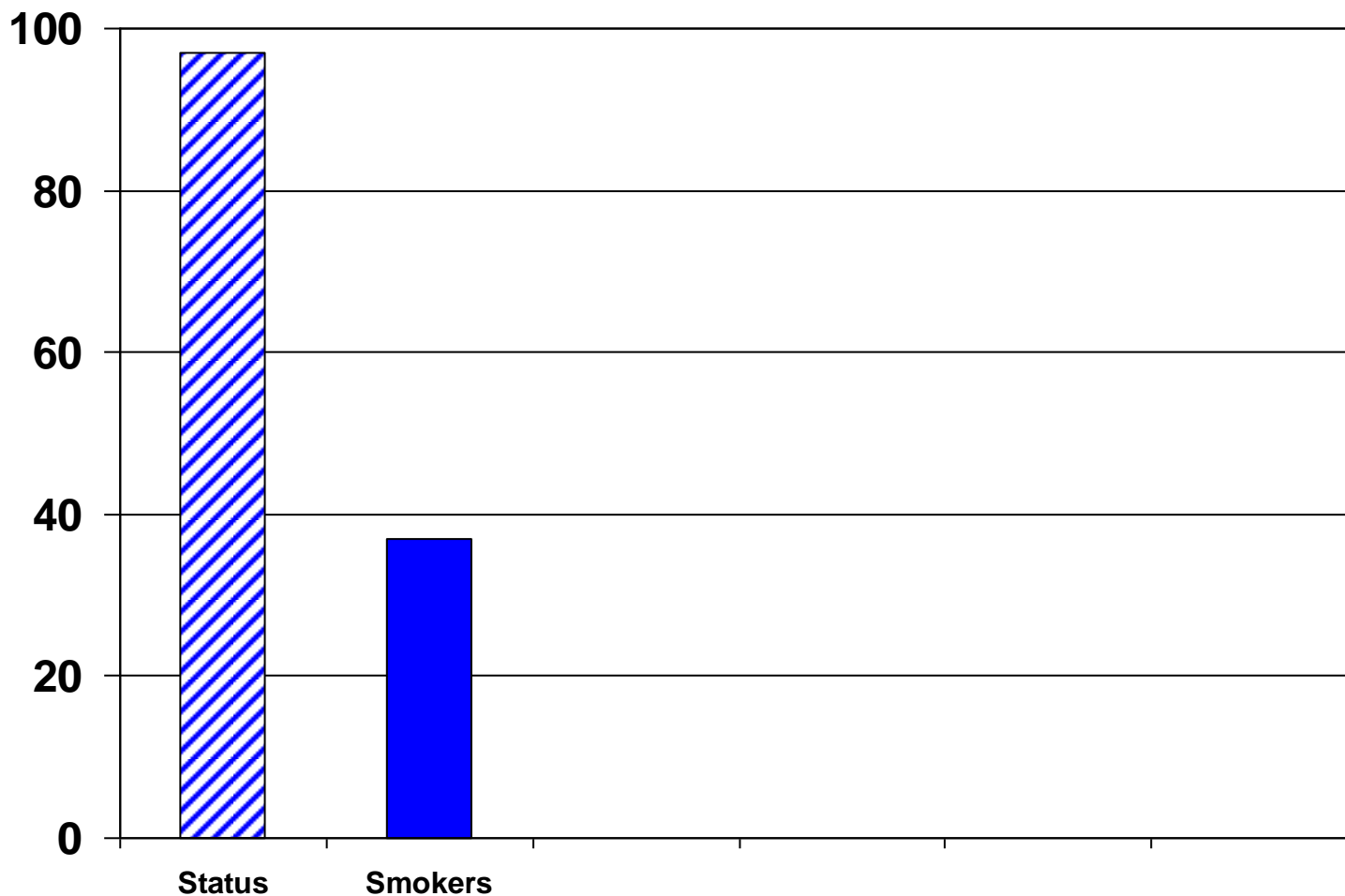


# Bispebjerg Hospital Indicators

	<b>Indicators for MR audit</b>	<b>No/Yes</b>
1	Status of smoking history in MR	
2	The patient smokes daily	



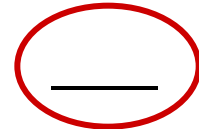
# Bispebjerg Hospital Indicators Surgical patients





# Indicators: MR 3.1.1. + 3.1.2. HPH DATA / DOC HP ACT:

	No	Yes
Status in MR	—	—
Positive risk factor	—	—
<hr/>		
Info given	—	—
MIT / BI	—	—
Intervention program	—	—
Follow up for results	—	—



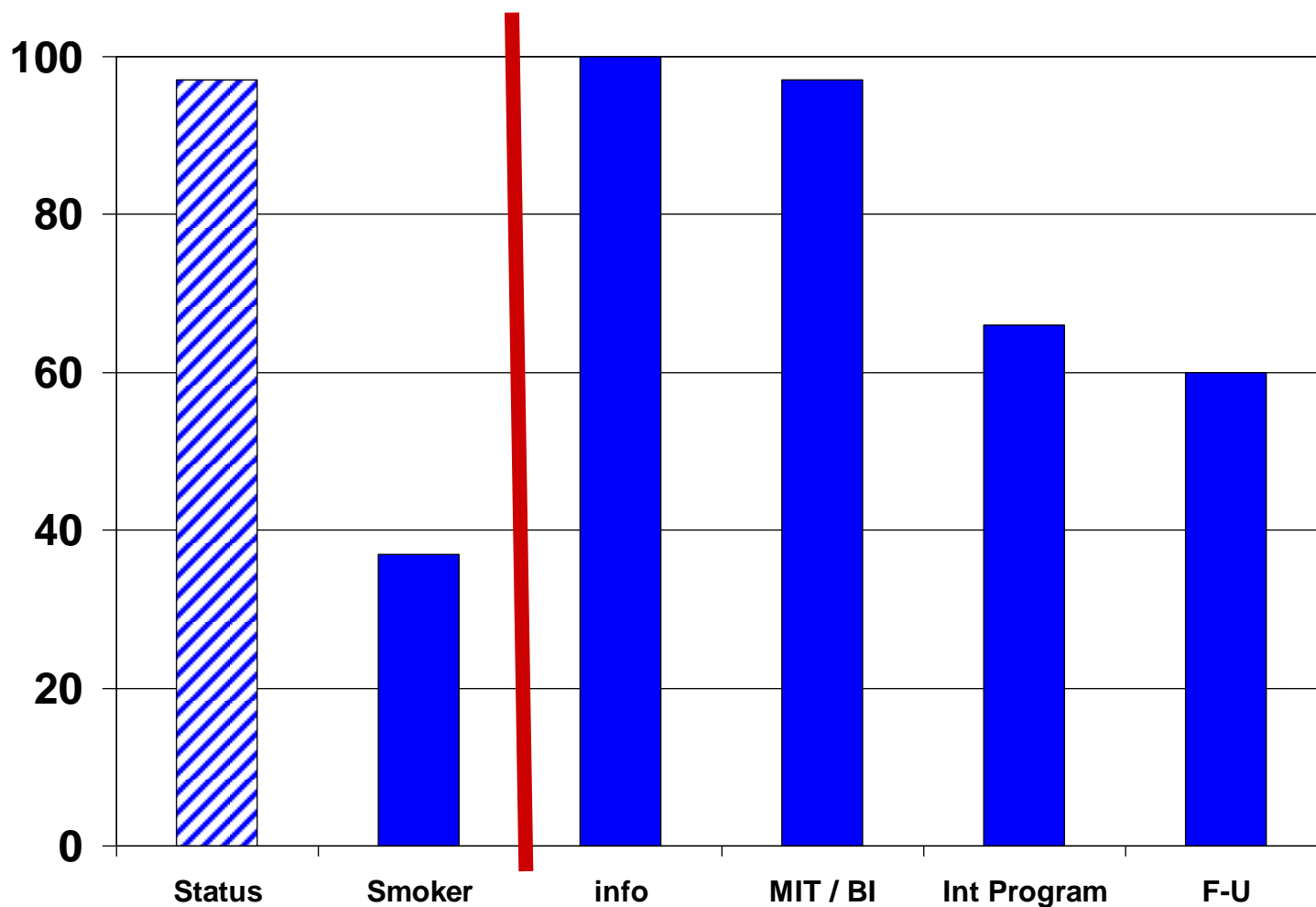


# Bispebjerg Hospital Indicators

	<b>Indicators for MR audit</b>	<b>No/Yes</b>
1	Status of smoking history in MR	
2	The patient smokes daily	
3	Information is given acc. to guidelines	
4	MIT / BI is given	
5	Smoking Cessation Intervention	
6	Follow-up for results	



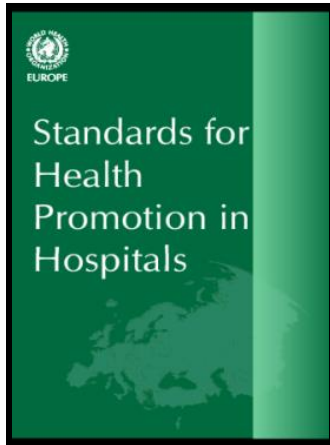
# Bispebjerg Hospital Indicators Surgical patients







# Better health gain by HP Fast Track Implementation



From 27 to 39 of 40 measurable elements completed





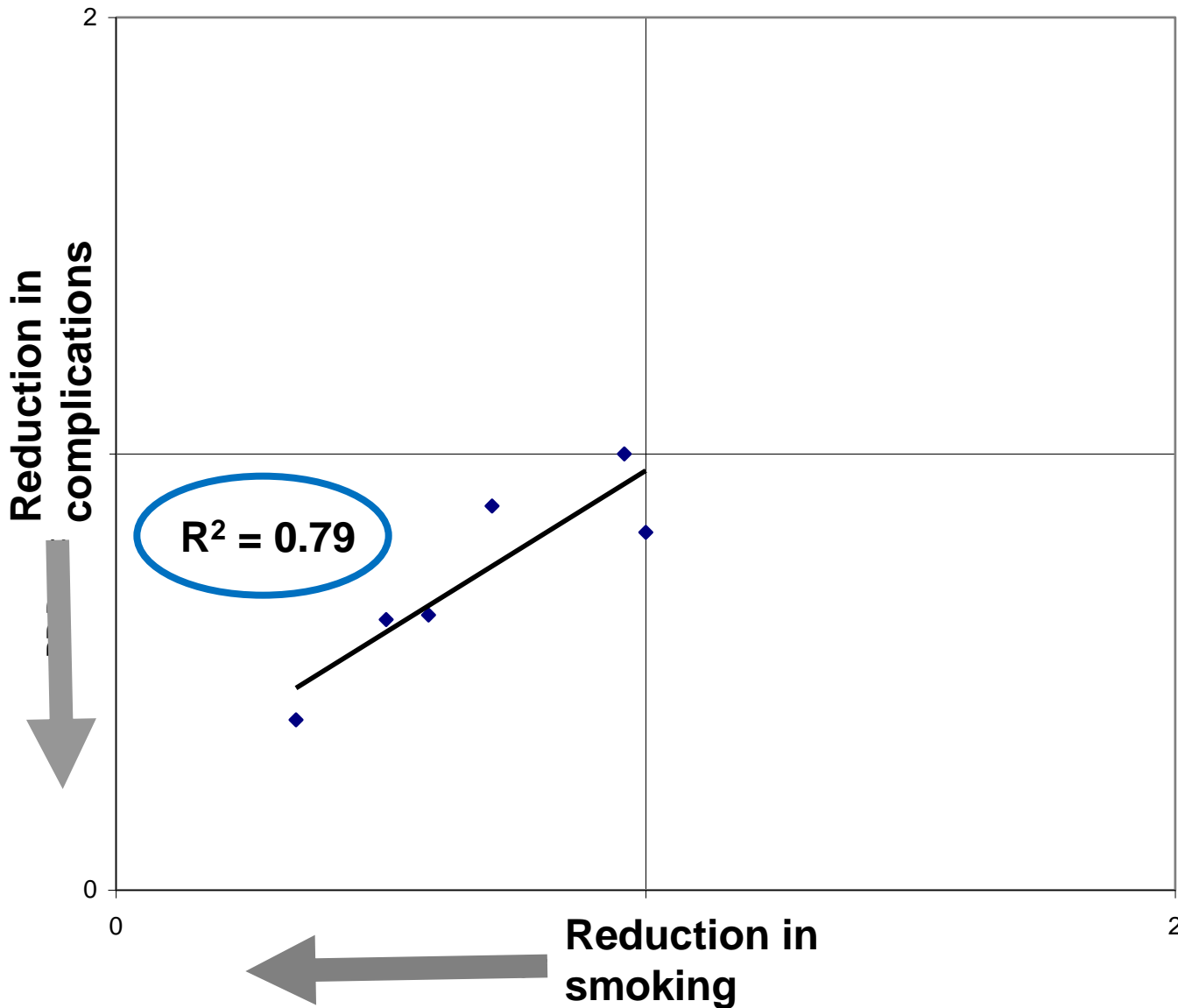
# Operations: Patient safety

- Less smoking  
= Less complications
  
- SCI Programs without or little effect  
= without or little effect (non significant)  
on complications



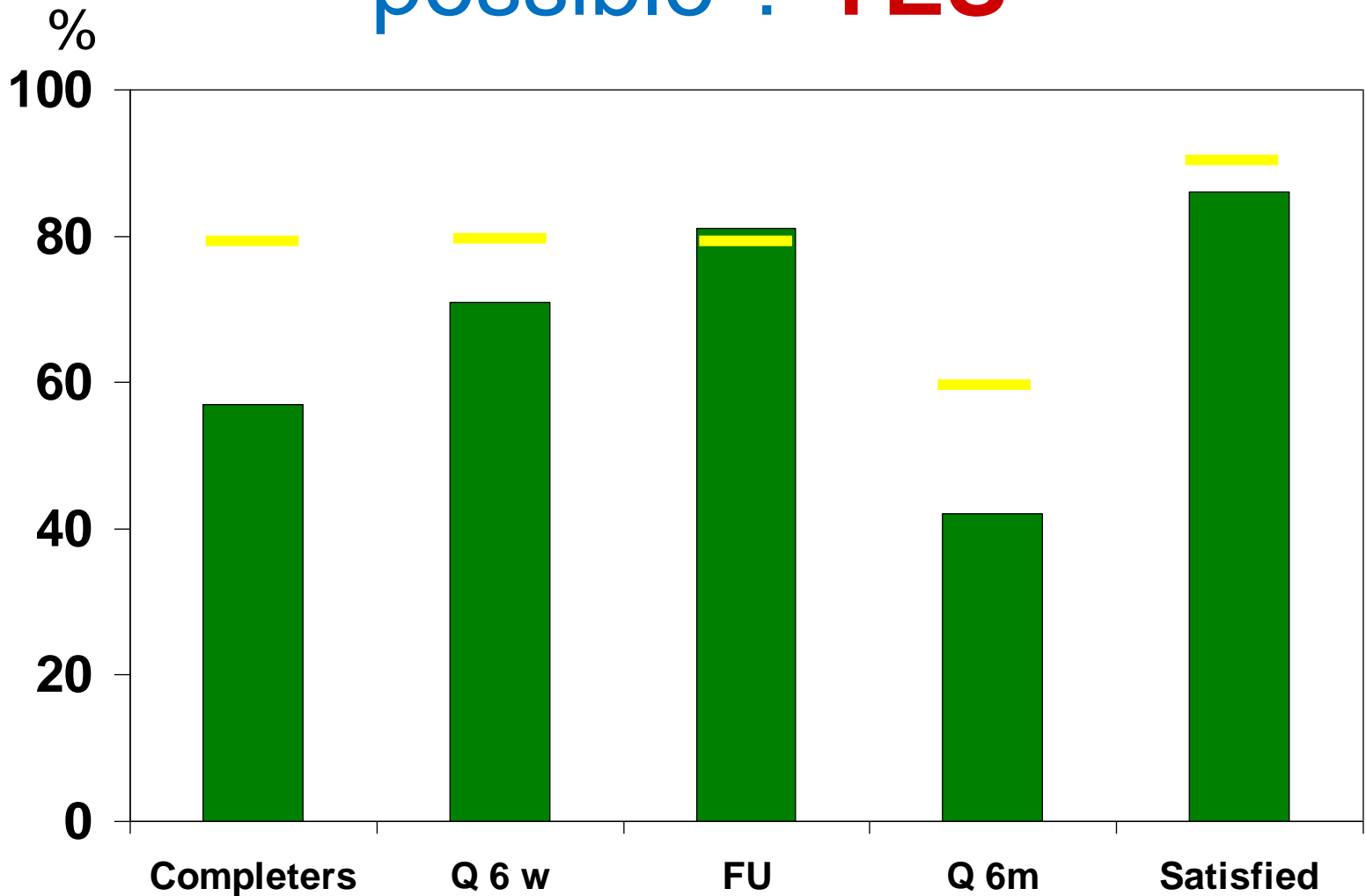
# SCI on surgical patients: RR

## Better quit-rate ~ Lesser complications





# Is a successful quit-rate $>50\%$ possible ? **YES**





Swedish  
doctors  
require  
stop  
smoking  
for  
surgical  
patients





# Patient safety today

**Don't do anything**

- **You accept the doubled complication rate among smokers**

**"Smokefree operations" (elective OP)**

- Reduced complications

**Postoperative intervention (trauma/acute OP)**

- Reduced complication after fracture surgery



# But often





# CLINICAL HEALTH PROMOTION CENTRE







Now to the case on CRM



# CASE 1

After hip surgery you, unfortunately, have the antibiotics prescribed for the patient next to you. Two days later you get an infection at the surgical site.

**How should the staff respond to you:**

- **The nurse**
- **The surgeon**





## CASE 2

Immediately, the nurse excuses sincerely for the mistakes.

The surgeon says that complications just happen sometimes; like bad luck. You undergo a new operation and treatment with the same antibiotics as you had by mistake.



**How would you act?**



# CASE 3

You start reading about hip surgery and complications on the Internet. You realize that smoking is a major risk factor for wound infections.

You smoke heavily, but were not informed about the risk or recommended to quit smoking before surgery.

**How would you act now?**





# CASE 4

Now the surgeon says that you were recommended to quit smoking, because he does that to all smokers. He just forgot to put it into the medical record.

**You decide to complain on malpractice, but will you win the case ?**





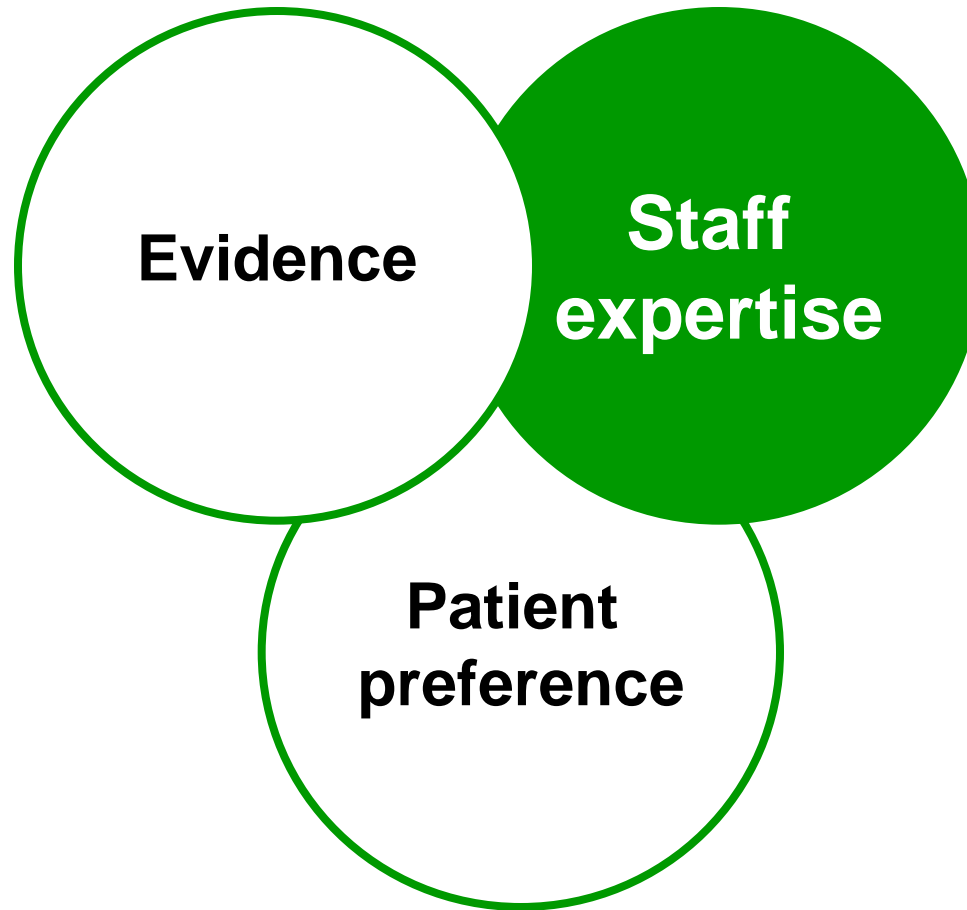
# CLINICAL HEALTH PROMOTION CENTRE





# Best EB Practice

Includes all three parts

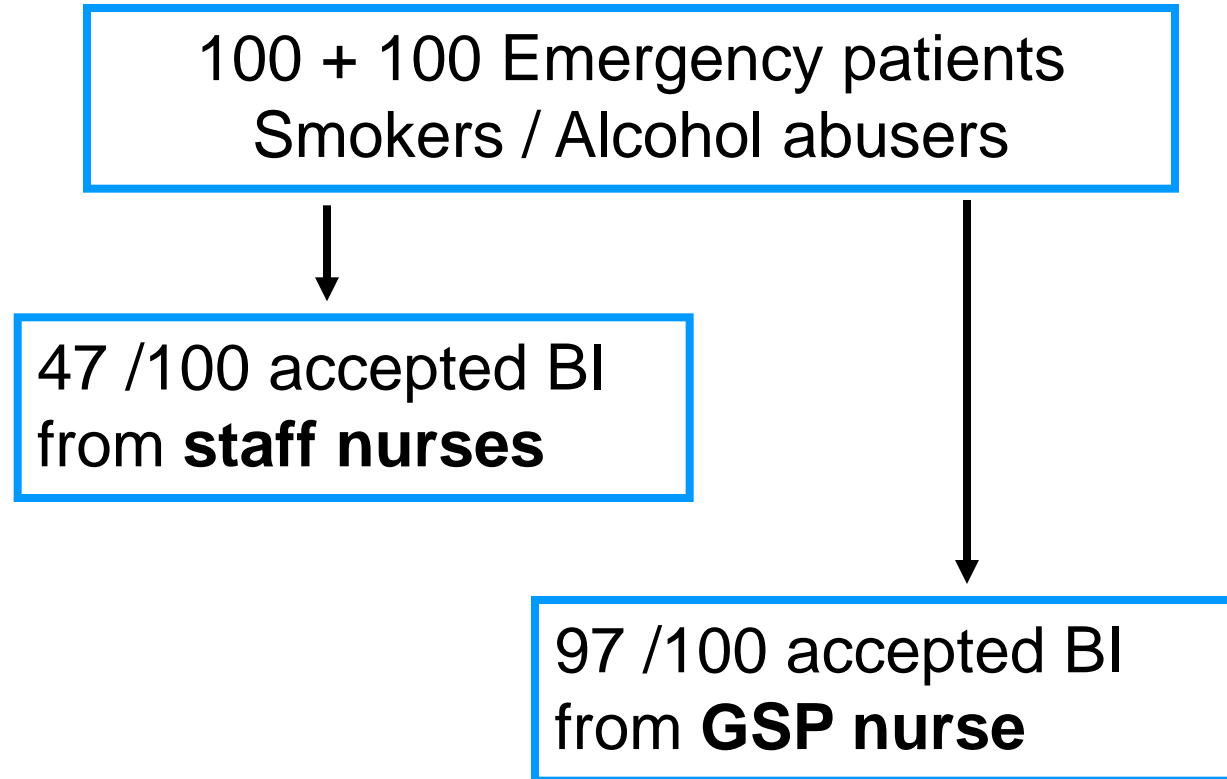


(Sackett, DL, Strauss SE, Richardson WS  
et al. *Evidence-based medicine*. Churchill  
Livingstone 2000)



# Clinical expertise

## The influence of specially trained nurses



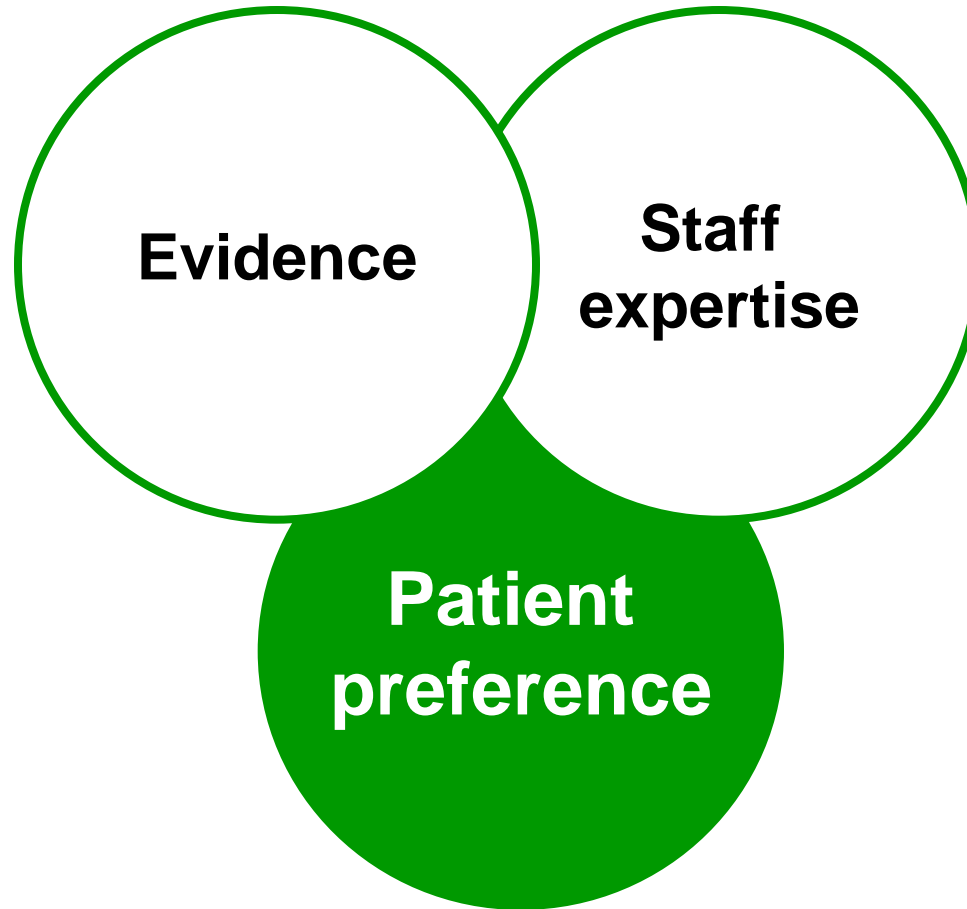
*Nelbom et al. 2004, Backer et al. 2007, Clin Resp Jour*





# Best EB Practice

Includes all three parts



*(Sackett, DL, Strauss SE, Richardson WS  
et al. Evidence-based medicine. Churchill  
Livingstone 2000)*



# Patient attitude

- We are afraid that the patients are not motivated for smoking cessation
- Knowledge
  - 80% wants support from the hospital to change lifestyle prior to surgery; tobacco, alcohol drinking and overweight



# Patient preferences

- We are afraid that we invade privacy when recommending smoking cessation before surgery !
- Knowledge
  - All patients wanted to be offered the possibility to change smoking habits prior to surgery
    - Quitters
    - Smokers



# Patient preferences

- It is not possible to focus on two major things at the same time, such as upcoming surgery and change of smoking habits !
- **Knowledge**
  - The patients focused on
    - The possibility for reduced complication rate
    - The probability for increased quality of life after surgery induced an increased motivation for changing lifestyle
    - Hospital support to smoking cessation



# Patient preferences

- We think that the staff approach does not mean anything to the patients; e.g. the roll model is exaggerated
- Knowledge
  - Active support from the staff was very important for changing smoking habits
  - Smoking and smelling of smoke reduced the level of motivation
  - Conflicting information from the staff about the influence of smoking was frustrating



# Patient preferences

- We hope that smoke-free surroundings do not mean anything in relation to smoking cessation
- Knowledge
  - Smoke-free common rooms were important for keeping up the motivation



# Patient experiences

- **Being offered a few days preop program before breast cancer surgery**
- **All found it relevant**
  - Most: Insufficient in the present situation
  - A few: The kick I needed



# Patient experiences: CONTROL GROUP

- **Being randomised to the Control Group instead of 4+4 weeks GSP at general and hip/knee surgery**
  - Half of the patients were disappointed
    - No influence on the drop-out rate
    - More stopped smoking by them-selves





# CLINICAL HEALTH PROMOTION CENTRE

