

Access to Spinal Cord Injury services; a life less complicated

A national spinal cord injury registry as a quality improvement tool

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Introduction

- The Norwegian spinal cord injury registry (NorSCIR) is a national medical quality registry that provides a unique opportunity to monitor the quality of the provided spinal cord injury (SCI) care.
- NorSCIR contains individualized data concerning patient problems such as complications, medical interventions, and outcomes after treatment (including patient-reported outcomes).
- NorSCIR is based on the International SCI Data Sets which are available for free use by clinicians and researchers.
- The registry includes all SCI patients (traumatic and non-traumatic) admitted for primary rehabilitation, and later follow-up to one of the three specialized SCI units in Norway.

Methods

- Data collection occurs at various time points during the first rehabilitation admission and all check-ups, resulting in longitudinal data.
- In collaboration with the advisory board and SCI professionals in the field, ten quality indicators have been created that measures the hospitals' compliance with the existing professional guidelines.
- NorSCIR provide information and feedback to healthcare professionals on a continuous basis. The hospitals have electronically access to updated data, not only from their own hospital, but also in comparison with national data in NorSCIR (Rapporteket). Additionally does NorSCIR provide monthly and annual reports.

The continuous registry development goes hand-in-hand with the improvement in clinical SCI practice

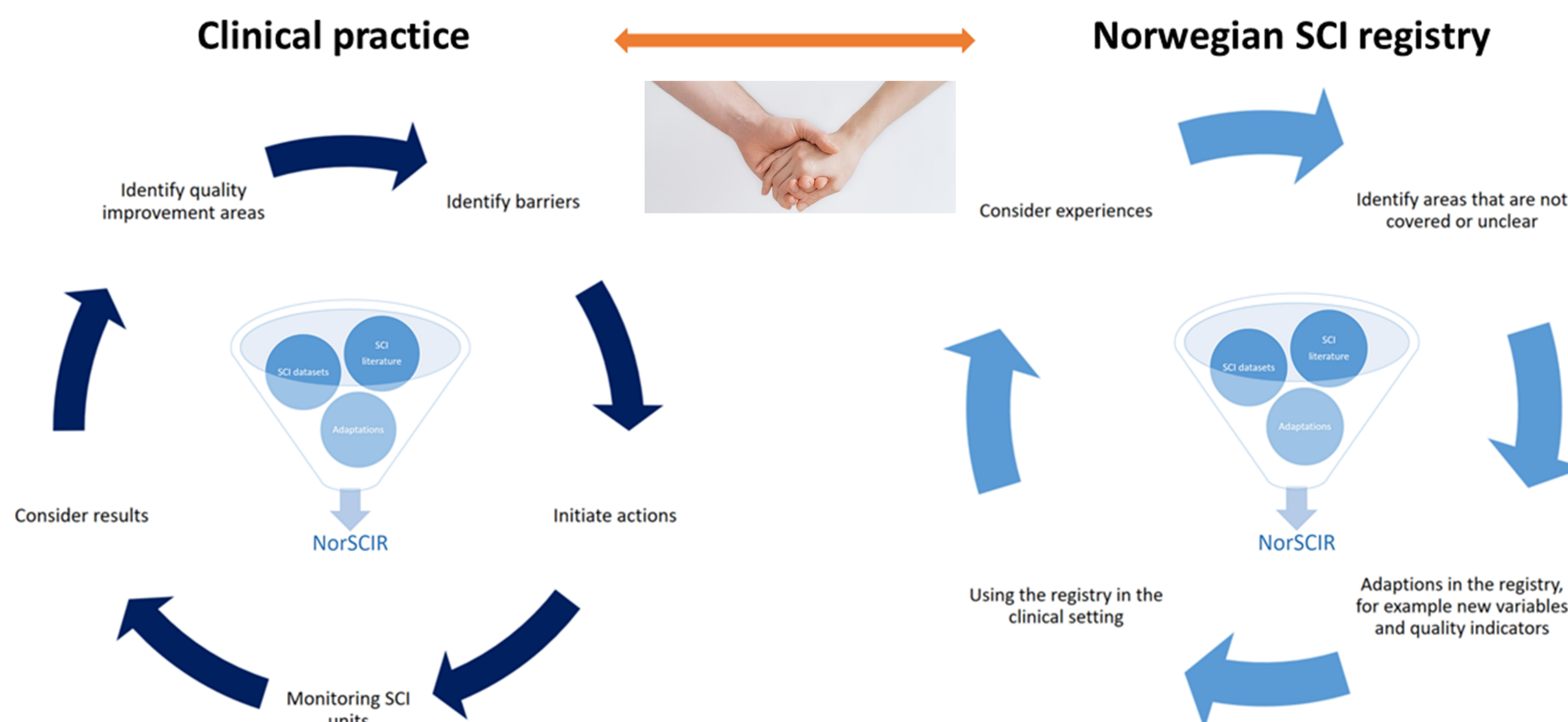


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Results

- Feedback and data from the registry may provide health care professionals insight into their own performance and areas for awareness for prevention.
- As a response, the Norwegian SCI health care system, is getting motivated for changes and quality improvement activities.
- Low achievement on a quality indicator often leads to actions in order to achieve a better result.

Conclusion

A national SCI registry contributes to quality improvement in SCI services. Insights about the impact of an SCI on important areas in a person's life are captured and will hopefully contribute to a less complicated life to persons living with a spinal cord injury