

## Quality Action CASE STUDY

### 1. Name and country of the organisation

*(Please state the name and the country of the organisation that implemented this practical application of a QA/QI tool as part of Quality Action. We do not publish this information unless you agree. You can remain anonymous by adjusting the settings at the end of this form.)*

General Hospital of Karditsa, Greece

### 2. Authors of the case study and contact details

*(Please provide then name of the author(s) of this case study and any contact names, Email address or websites where readers can access more information about this practical application of a QA/QI tool.)*

Georgia Gkavogianni, Health Visitor, General Hospital of Karditsa. email: geogkavogianni@yahoo.gr

I attended a five-day seminar on HIV/AIDS and STI organised by HCDCP in 2005. The aim of the seminar was to train and motivate health workers in order to contribute to informing the general and student population. Since then, I have participated in the network of trained health care workers that are collaborating with HCDCP and the Ministry of Education for the implementation of school-based programs on HIV/AIDS and STI.

### 3. External support (facilitators/partners/technical assistance)

*(Please list the names of other organisations and/or people who were involved in this practical application of a QA/QI tool, e.g. project partners, technical assistance, external stakeholders etc..)*

Project team:

Georgia Gkavogianni, project manager and facilitator for the tool application

Maria Papageorgiou

Anastasia Lychou

Technical assistance & training: Vasileia Konte & Ilias Liantis, Quality Action project, Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP).

### 4. Project/programme

*(Please briefly describe the project/programme to which you applied the tool.)*

The project title is: "Awareness program on HIV/AIDS and STIs for school students 15-18 years old in the area of Karditsa, Thessaly"

Young people are vulnerable and at increased risk, as observed from the rates of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS in the age group of 15-24. HIV/AIDS education for young people plays a vital role in the efforts to tackle the HIV epidemic.

Our main project goals are:

- Health promotion and information on HIV/AIDS and STIs for students aged 15-18
- Information on the modes of transmission and the clarification of major misconceptions
- Knowledge and skills to encourage young people to avoid or reduce behaviours that carry risk of HIV infection.
- Counseling for the adoption of safer behaviours and practices (systematic condom use)
- Reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

-Each year, about 1400 students participate in our educational sessions on HIV/AIDS and STI in the area of Karditsa.

## 5. Goals/aims of applying the QA/QI tool

*(Please list the goals you wanted to achieve with the practical application of the tool.)*

The aims of applying the tool are described below:

1. Assess what is working well, what improvement actions need to be taken, by whom and in what time frame
2. Obtain a certification of being trained in quality improvement for the project management of interventions aiming to reduce HIV/AIDS infection among young people
3. Enhance the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of our project
4. Increase the level of networking with National and European stakeholders
5. Ensure the inclusion of best practices in providing young people with accurate information and prevention

## 6. Tool and methodology used

*(Please indicate which of the five tools you used (Succeed, QIP, PQD, PIQA, Schiff) and briefly sketch out the steps and measures of how you applied it.)*

I was trained in *Succeed* tool for quality improvement in HIV Prevention at the workshop organised by HCDCP in Thessaloníki in November 2015.

The practical tool application process was as follows:

- Initially I informed my supervisor and my colleagues about the *Succeed* tool for quality improvement of HIV prevention programs. I explained that *Succeed* allows a participatory approach, involving a group of people.
- I was appointed as an independent person to facilitate the discussion on the questionnaire responses.
- We worked with colleagues and answered all questions with clarity and frankness.

## 7. Results and benefits of applying the QA/QI tool

*(Please describe what resulted from applying the tool and if and how your project/programme benefitted.)*

The use of the tool helped us to:

- a. Critically think about the goals and process initially planned
- b. Check that the goals and the target population are well defined
- c. Check that the members of the project team clearly understand their role and feel adequately trained.

Regarding the impact of the project, though it is not assessed with a formal evaluation questionnaire, the students are always interested and ask further questions for clarification. The project has been running for many years and each year it is very popular and we have a high demand for organising educational sessions. What the project team would like to change is the dissemination of information on HIV/STI related issues by distributing educational material and posters in order to further increase awareness of the issue.

The fact that the project team is hospital-based increases the opportunity for young people to liaise with health care services.

## 8. Recommendations

*(Please describe the lessons learnt from positive and negative experiences during the process of using the tool itself and about the quality of projects/programmes like yours.)*

There were positive and negative experiences during the implementation of the *Succeed* tool. Originally, the tool was big enough and many questions were repeated. There was a great debate on the *Succeed* questionnaire in order to understand all the questions. In the end the result was positive.

The tool application created a team spirit among the group and helped us to continue the completion. Involving everybody helped in collecting qualitative data from the questionnaire.

The tool gave us the opportunity to redefine some parts of the process of the programme, and to re-look at the steps that must be assessed during project implementation. It easily generates questions for group discussion and helps in programming next steps.

The *Succeed* is designed for small and large organisations that implement prevention programs for HIV infection. The methodology used is equally useful for large or small actions and it fitted well for our project. I will recommend the use of the tool to other colleagues working in other areas of the hospital involved with HIV prevention - mainly the HIV testing site, as well as services outside the hospital.

### **Please indicate how you want this case study to be published:**

- ☒ *I want this case study to be published mentioning the names of countries, organisations, people and contact details/websites in the text above.*
- ☐ *I want this case study to be published anonymously, meaning that names of countries, organisations, people and contact details/websites in the text above will be removed by the editors before publishing.*
- ☐ *I want this case study to be published without mentioning people's names, meaning that names of people in the text above will be removed by the editors before publishing, but names of organisations and countries as well as website addresses will remain.*

Please send the filled in case study to [carolin.vierneisel@dah.aidshilfe.de](mailto:carolin.vierneisel@dah.aidshilfe.de)

**Thank you!**