

Focus on Community Care: The Buurtzorg model in the Netherlands

This flagship example from the Netherlands shows how a coaching approach increases patients and nurses' empowerment through self-governance. This initiative is also underway at local level in several countries, including Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. MedTech Europe's Community Care group calls for better patient care and more attention to the community setting. For more information visit www.medtecheurope.org

How a coaching model is making its way to home care?

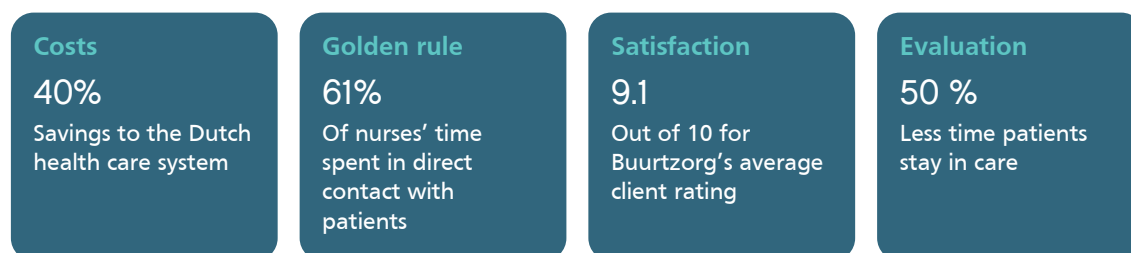
Founded by a small team of nurses, Buurtzorg Nederland is a district community nursing system set up in 2006. Self-governing nurse teams deliver high quality care at lower costs, a model seized on by policy-makers after having gathered international attention in past years.



The goal of this district nursing and homecare model is to cut bureaucracy and give nurses more freedom and time with patients. Nurses act as health coaches for patients and their families, which includes defining an online care plan and its progress, teaching how to do a wound dressing change or training patients on giving insulin injections.

The key driver behind the model's success is its cost effectiveness. An Ernst & Young study in 2012 documented savings of 40% to the Dutch health care system, in part because self-management keeps administrative costs low. Services include traditional nursing services such as dialysis, wound care and ostomy.

What does this mean for the healthcare system?



REFERENCES

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