

# Managing healthcare quality and safety

**"What we observe is not nature itself, but nature exposed to our method of questioning."**

Werner Heisenberg









Seeing  
things how  
they are



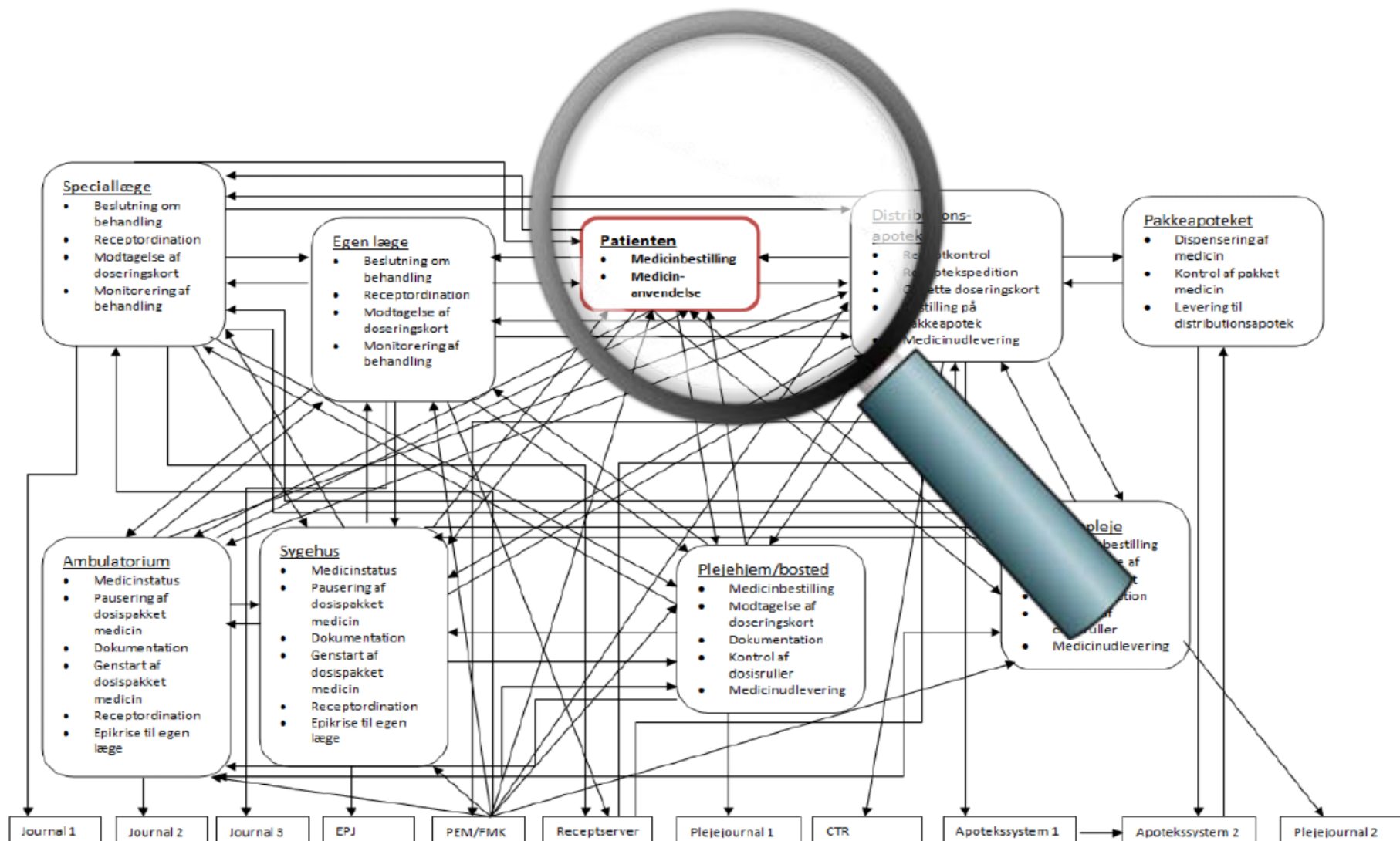
# den Kopf in den Sand stecken



ein Problem ignorieren;  
sich weigern, die Realität wahrzunehmen

“Every problem seems to cry out in its own language”

Thomas Transtrømer



**“I call it cruel, perhaps the root of all cruelty to know what occurs, but not recognize the fact.”**

William Stafford





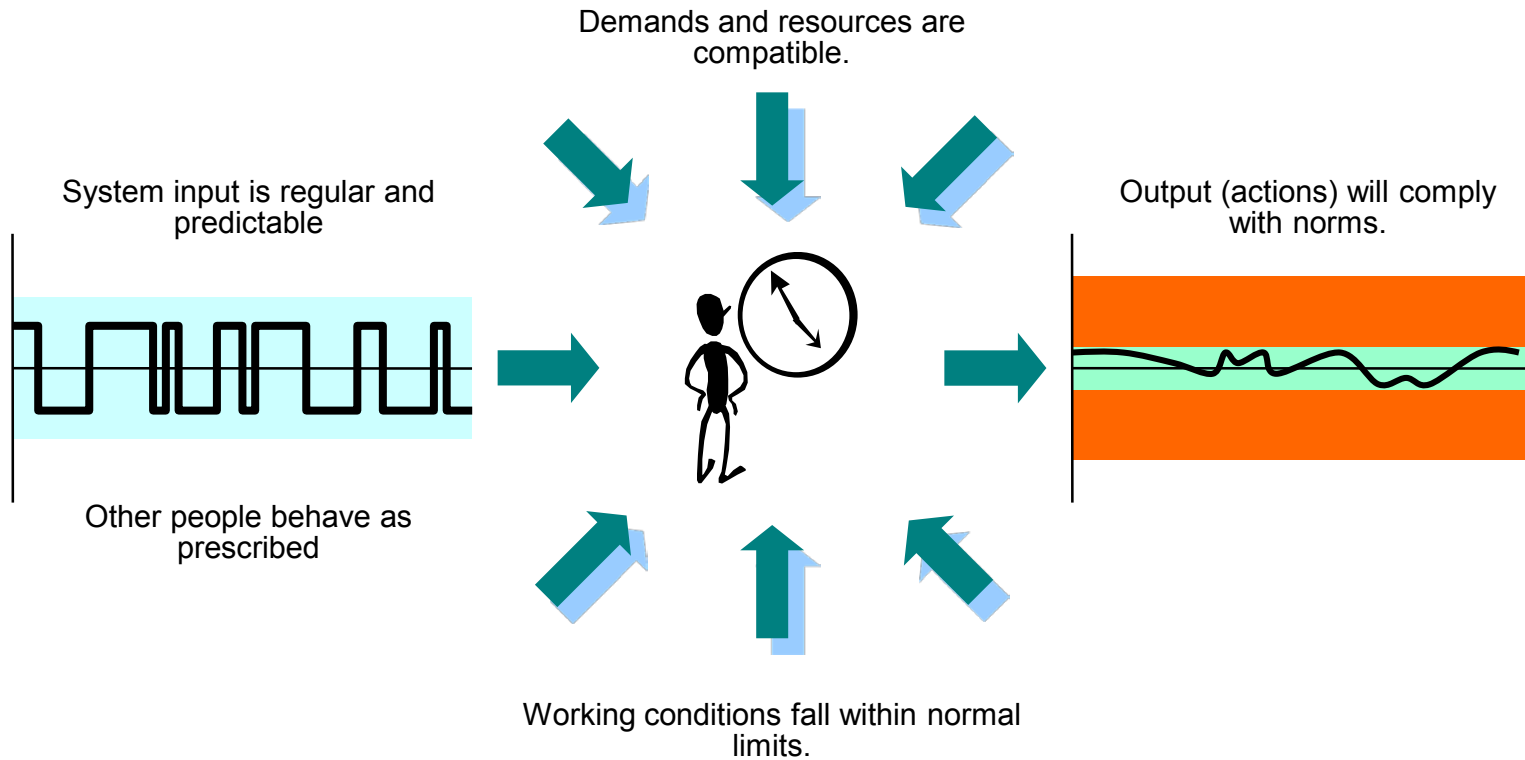
How the  
work  
works

Seeing  
things how  
they are





## Work as imagined – nominal work

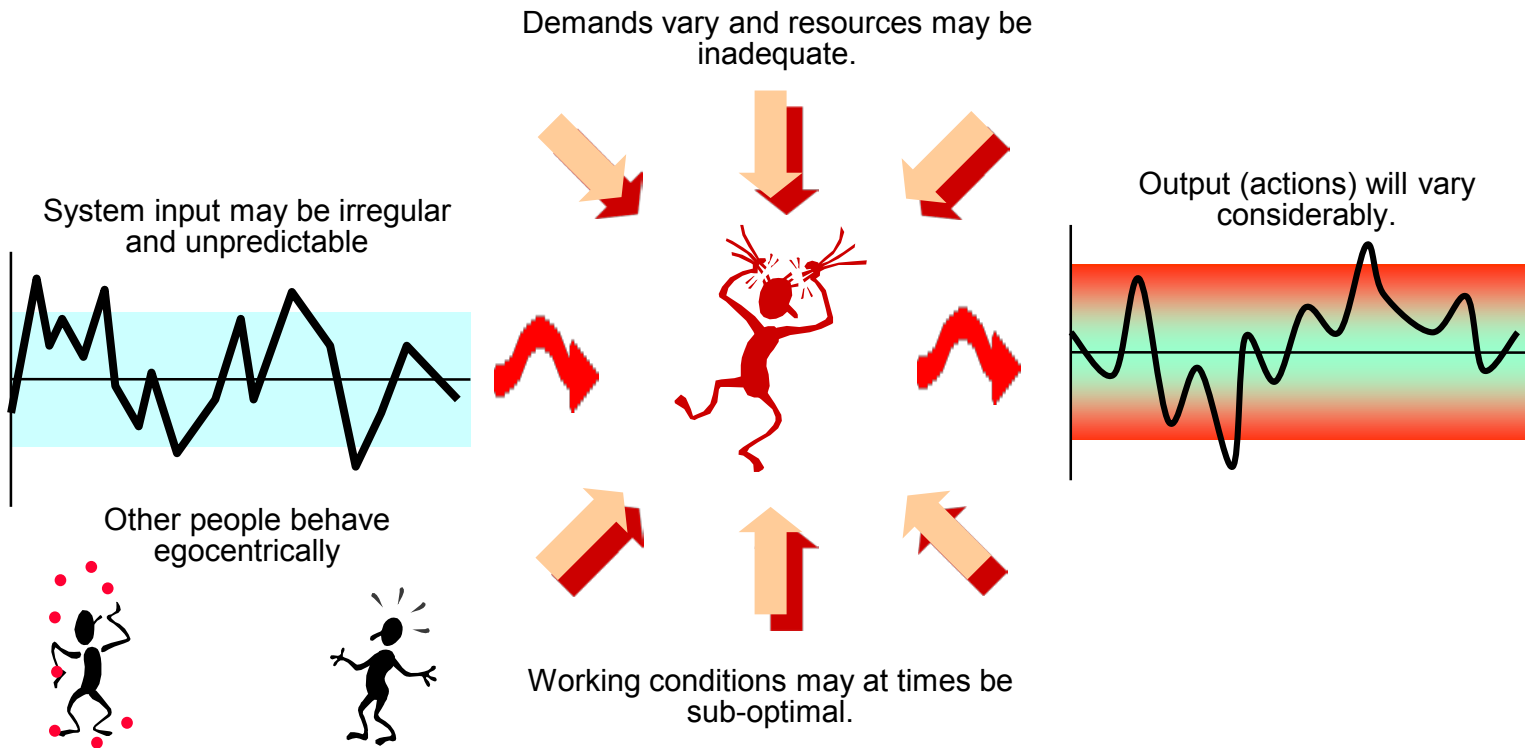


... no need to make adjustments

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## Work as done – actual work



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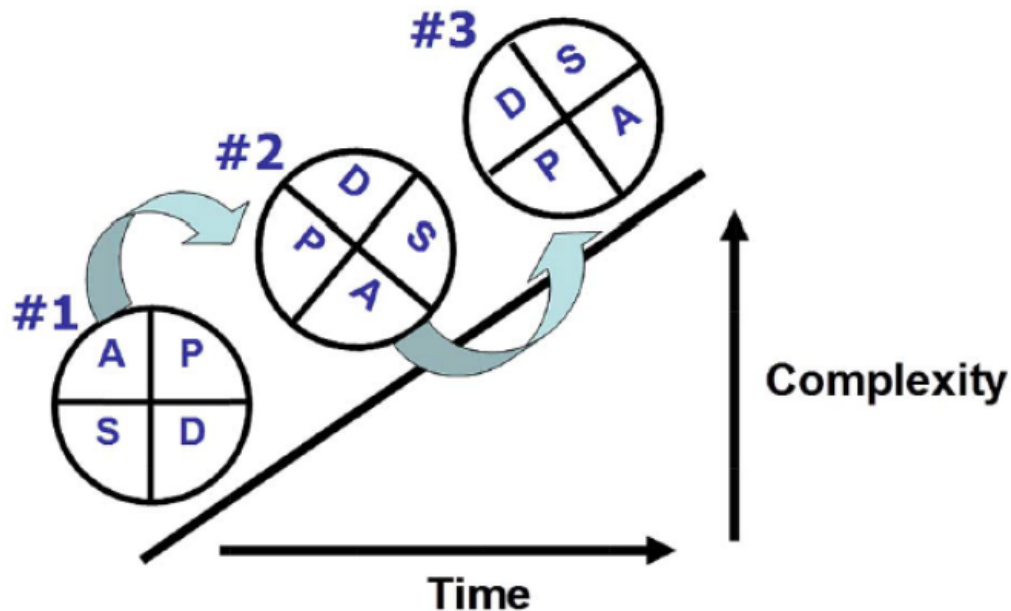
# Efficiency-Thoroughness Trade-Off



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# Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles



**Figure 1** Traditional view of successive plan–do–study–act (PDSA) cycles over time depicted as a linear process. Each preceding PDSA informs the next one. As time goes on, the complexity of each intervention and trial often increases.<sup>2</sup>

## Building knowledge, asking questions

Greg Ogrinc and Kaveh G Shojania

*BMJ Qual Saf* 2014;23:265–267 originally published online December 23, 2013

# Plan-Do-Study-Act cirkler [2]

BMJ Quality  
& Safety

Building knowledge, asking questions

Greg Ogrinc and Kaveh G Shojania

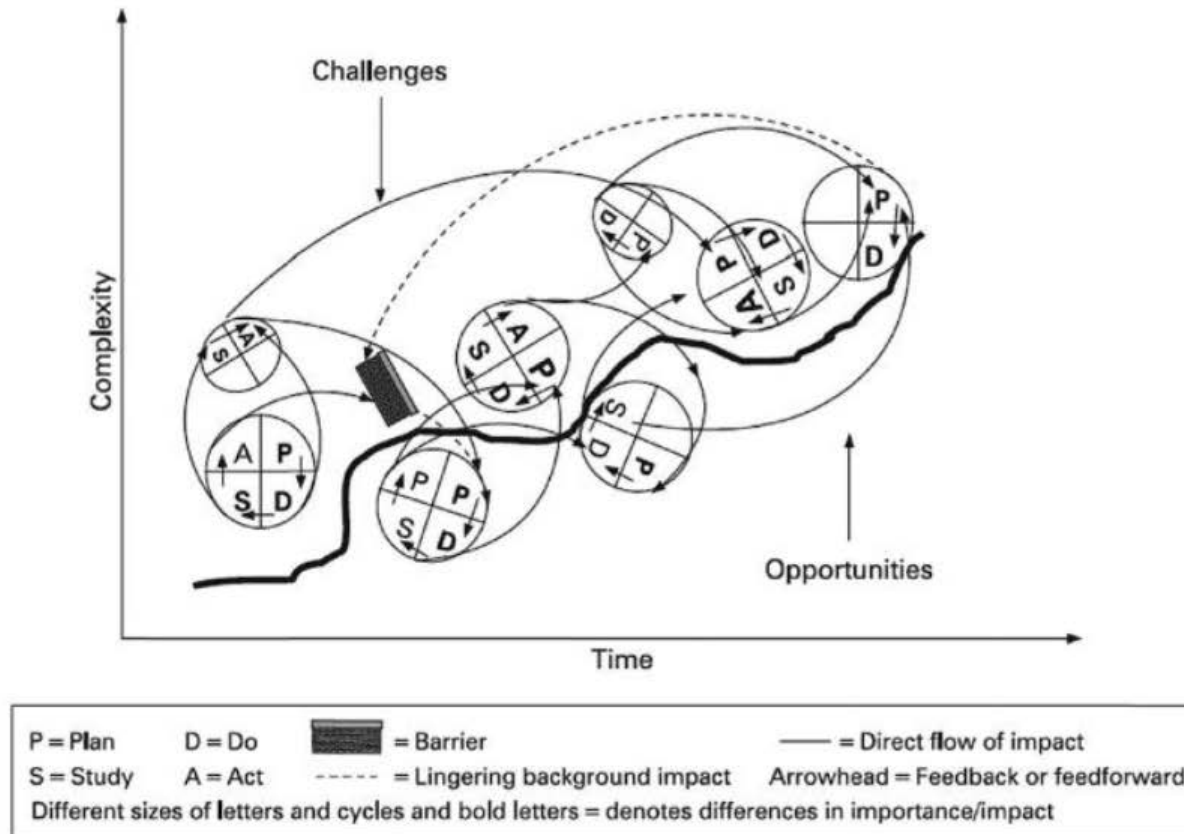


Figure 2 Revised conceptual model of plan-do-study-act (PDSA) methodology.<sup>4</sup>

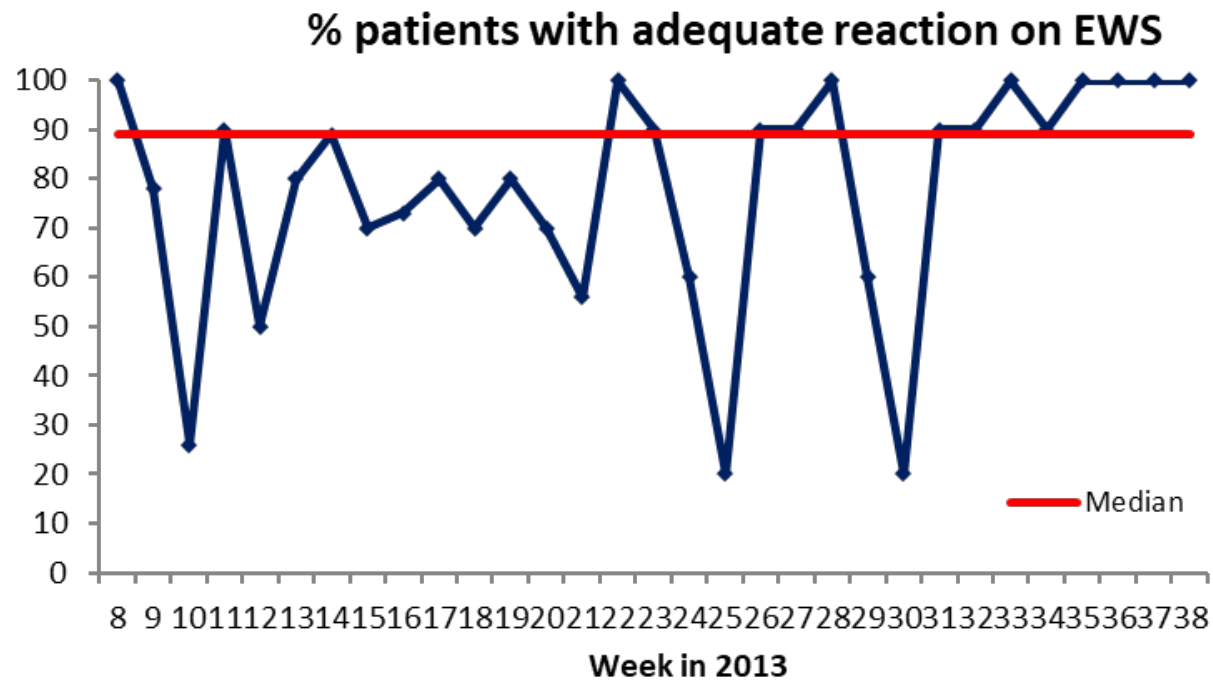




How the  
work  
works

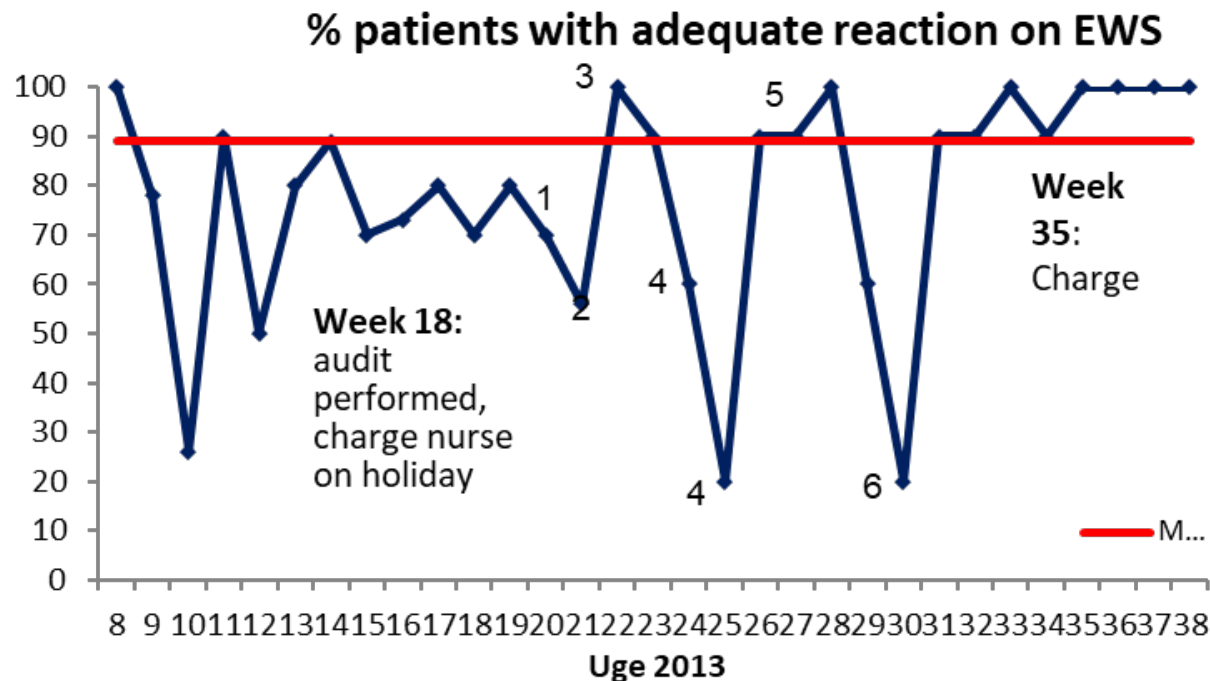
Seeing  
things how  
they are

Data driven  
leadership



Source: Gitte Madsen, North Zealand Hospital





Until week 18: audit performed by quality coordinator

- 1: Principles of EWS reviewed in team meeting, EWS on white board for all patients
- 2: Charge nurse AND quality coordinator audit weekly and review a case in team meeting
- 3: Charge nurse AND quality coordinator audit weekly and review currently admitted cases in team huddles
- 4: Holiday week 25: EWS reviewed: common language, for nurses and doctors
- 5: Comments from staff: "Now I see the meaning of the EWS as a common language, earlier it felt like double documentation."
- 6: Repeated review of EWS

Source: Gitte Madsen, North Zealand Hospital





Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## Social Science & Medicine

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed)



# Beyond metrics? Utilizing ‘soft intelligence’ for healthcare quality and safety



Graham P. Martin <sup>a,\*</sup>, Lorna McKee <sup>b</sup>, Mary Dixon-Woods <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> University of Leicester, United Kingdom

<sup>b</sup> Aberdeen University, United Kingdom



Connectedness



Wisdom

Knowledge

Information

Human interaction/intervention

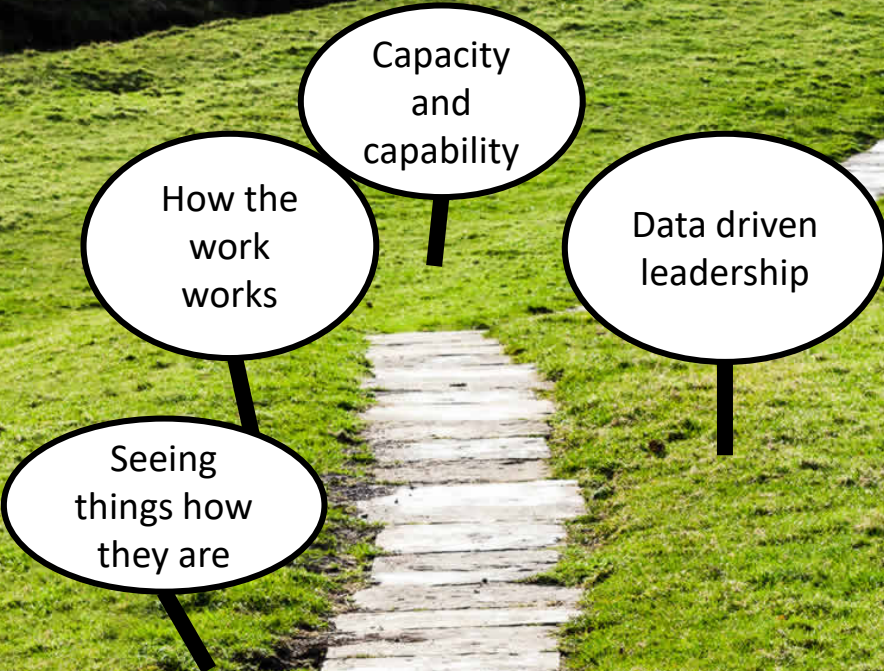
Data



Understanding

After Ackoff



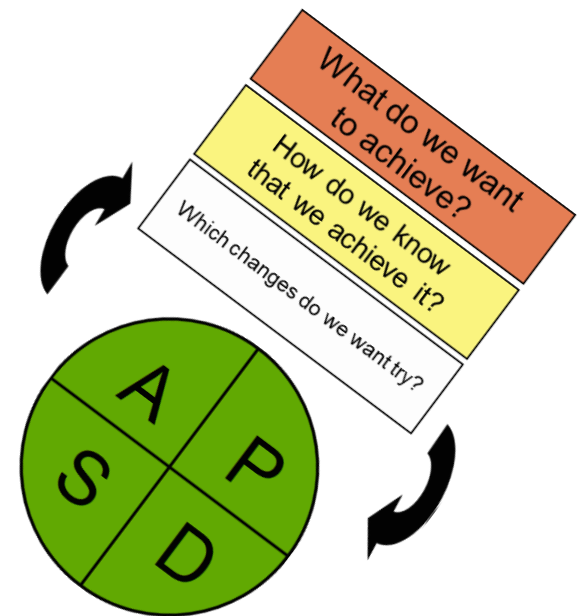


Subject matter  
knowledge

Profound  
Knowledge

Subject matter  
know

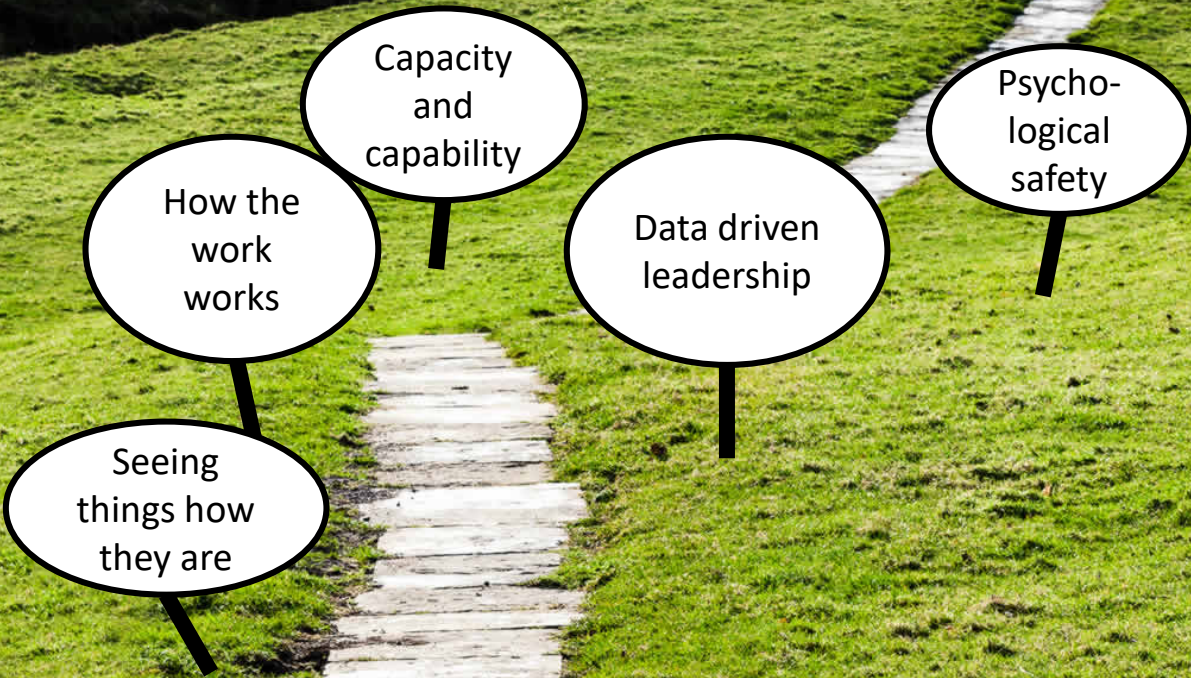
Profound  
knowledge





# Number of staff by level

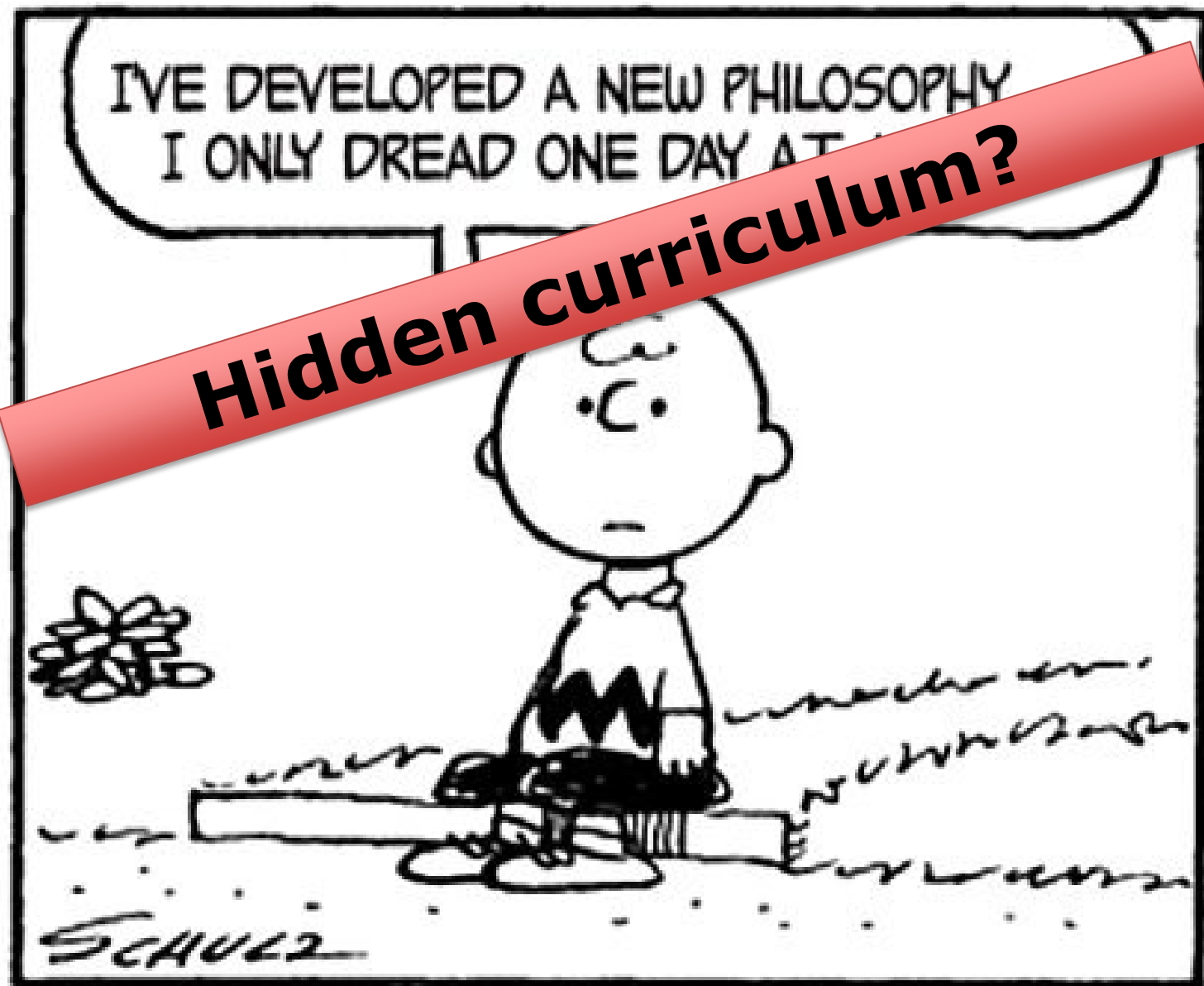
	Total employees	Practitioners (clinical and support staff)	Change agents, middle managers, project leads	Hospital executives, department leads	Experts
Cincinnati Childrens'	12.600	/	440	70	(Faculty 640)
Tayside	14.000	1200	400	70	40
Hillerød	4000	300	100	40	10



“Fear is toxic to both safety and improvement.”

NHS: A commitment to learn—a promise to act













An impressive *firework* of ongoing quality improvement initiatives in the Danish healthcare system



Too much of a good thing...?



Gerdes, U. Centre for Quality

**Projects**



**Campaigns**



**Microsystem - based change**



**Mesosystem & Macrosystem-based change**



**Whole system transformation**

Nelson EC, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Dartmouth Medical School & Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, presented at ISQua, London October 23, 2006









# MOTIVASJON







Table 1. Complexity Analysis Framework for QI in Health Care

Situation	Problem definition	Response	Primary locus of responsibility for the work	Kind of work	Decision-making process
Simple	<b>Clear</b> Ordered universe with clear causality.	<b>Clear</b> Answers are self-evident, undisputed, and can be determined based on facts and evidence.	Manager	<b>Technical</b> Often a question of solution implementation	Sense <b>Categorize</b> Respond
Complicated	<b>Clear</b> Ordered universe with clear causality, though not perceived by everyone.	<b>Requires learning</b> May contain multiple correct answers. Involves analysis, expert consultations, and the creation of working groups. Requires coordination and collaboration. It is time consuming, and often requires a tradeoff between finding the "best" answer and making a decision, but complete data becomes available, eventually.	Manager and staff	<b>Technical and adaptive</b> Often a question of solution implementation and evolution of new responses through experimentation and discovery	Sense <b>Analyze</b> Respond
Complex	<b>Requires learning</b> Unordered universe with no clear causality.	<b>Requires learning</b> No right answers exist. Decisions often based on incomplete data.	Staff > manager	<b>Adaptive</b> Often a question of evolution of new responses through experimentation and discovery	<b>Probe</b> Sense Respond
Chaotic	<b>Requires action</b> to create stability in an unordered universe.	<b>Requires action</b> to stabilize in order to gain perspective and enable diagnosis. No point to search for right answers.	Manager	<b>Technical</b>	<b>Act</b> Sense Respond

# Leadership—how?

## Challenge 7: Leadership

Getting leadership for quality improvement right requires a delicate combination of setting out a vision and sensitivity to the views of others. 'Quieter' leadership, oriented towards inclusion, explanation and gentle persuasion, may be more effective.

Downloaded from [quality.safety.bmj.com](http://quality.safety.bmj.com) on August 30, 2012. Published by [group.bmj.com](http://group.bmj.com)  
BMJ Quality & Safety Online First, published on 29 August 2012 as 10.1136/bmjqs-2011-000760  
Narrative review

### Ten challenges in improving quality in healthcare: lessons from the Health Foundation's programme evaluations and relevant literature

Mary Dixon-Woods, Sarah McNicol, Graham Martin









"I would rather have my ignorance than another men's knowledge, because I have got so much of it."

*P 250—Mark Twain's letters [1917 ed.], Vol 1*



# Litterature

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No conflicts of interest

"Scientists have odious manners, except when you prop up their theory; then you can borrow money of them."

*P. 283—What Is Man? And Other Essays [1917 ed.], "The Bee"*