Quality Of Care In Dental Institutes

The delivery of quality has been advocated as the key to the enduring success and viability of healthcare sectors. Improving the quality of health amenities has been an important priority for succeeding governments.

To ensure the qualities of care with respect to health, it is important to understand first what it means. Quality is often considered by some to be an abstract or vague entity which does not offer itself to be easily defined or measured.

It is, hence, important to be able to measure quality and benchmark it against a set of approved standards. If not possible, it is difficult to gauge if care is of appropriate qualities, or to be sure if it is improving. As Darzi wrote: 'We can only be sure to improve what we can actually measure.'

Quality is multidimensional in nature and there are several different means of measuring it, common vital areas which help in assessing them include efficacy, effectiveness, efficiency,

optimality, acceptability, legitimacy and equity. In simplest of terms, quality of care should be safe, effective, patient centred, timely, efficient, and equitable.

Health-care professionals seek to meet a norm of care that is defined by laws, regulations, ethics, and ideals. A good quality assurance policy or practice provides one of the most direct means to assess standard of care while allowing for the discovery of nuances in professional practice.

A quality assurance plan should also include the development of

quality assessment, identification of issues or lags, development of a plan for solving problems, and enactment of necessary changes. At the end of each quality assessment period, providers and health care staff should have information to develop new policy and practice modifications that will further lead to positive performance enrichment.

Quality assurance is an evolution of steps that should lead to practice and performance improvement. The dental profession currently lacks universality and recognition of a total quality improvement policy. Several new methods and procedures show great promise in broadening quality assurance in dentistry.

This is typically important for us, Indian population, which as a developing economy and nation have limited resources and manpower. It is required of us to be able to use the allocated resources and put them to the best of their use, and further to tabulate these results so that they can serve as important guidelines for further studies.

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