

Hanneke JJ Knibbe

MSc

Hanneke holds a Cum Laude degree in physiotherapy from the Jan van Essen Academy in Amsterdam. She also holds a Cum Laude Masters in Human Movement Science from the Free University of Amsterdam. She is currently working on a PhD thesis on effects of ergonomic interventions in health care at the Erasmus University Rotterdam.

In 1988 she founded LOCOmotion. LOCOmotion is now a successful network of health researchers, trainers and advisors. She and her brother Nico E Knibbe share the management.

They are involved in research, product development, innovation, business cases and national monitoring. They work for health care organizations, insurance companies, government funded organizations, unions, employers organizations etc.

They won national awards for a.o. implementation strategies with their innovative ideas and products. Their projects are successful and are being adopted by an steadily increasing number of health care organizations. Last year she published a book containing 12 businesscases on innovations in the health care industry. But most important Hanneke is married and has two lovely daughters.



Monitoring Progress and Improving Quality of Your Preventive Policy with the Care Thermometer : International Validation and Use

The Care Thermometer is an easy-to-use, web-based, self-assessment tool, designed to provide an efficient and reliable overview of the present situation in two specific areas: the physical care load and prevention policy in a unit or facility. In short it provides a quick reading of the care 'temperature'. The Care Thermometer allows the users to assess the current situation in their facility today, and, with regular use, it can help track progress over time. The Care Thermometer is a further step in the development of the TilThermometer[®], a validated assessment tool (Knibbe & Friele, 1999).

An international validation study of the Care Thermometer is ongoing. The results of the validation study will be presented at the conference.

Introduction: the Care Thermometer

Health care facilities implementing ergonomic policies in the nursing profession feel an increased need to monitor and fine tune their policies. They invest considerable effort and money in the implementation process. Management therefore will need data to monitor progress and promote further change. Currently their vision is often limited to data on sick leave and costs of injuries and compensation claims. Additional data might allow for a faster and more sensitive monitoring on a ward level and provide a means to tailor policies to the exact situation per ward.

For this purpose the Care Thermometer was developed and a study is undertaken to validate the Care Thermometer. The Care Thermometer is originally based on the Dutch 'TilThermometer[®]' developed by Knibbe et al. in the Netherlands (Knibbe & Friele, 1999). The TilThermometer was adapted for all health care sectors, tested by focus groups and is

currently used on a large, national scale on a regular basis. This tool is endorsed by unions, employers and the Health and Safety Inspectorate. Currently about 80% of all clients in geriatric care (nursing homes and homes for the elderly) have been assessed with the TilThermometer. National monitoring (fourth monitoring 2008) shows a steady improvement in the quality of preventive policies and a reduction of the back pain prevalence and sick leave in health care (Knibbe et al., 2008).

When compared to the TilThermometer, the Care Thermometer is more comprehensive as it specifies more sources of potential physical overexposure. It also explicitly covers issues related to quality of care, whereas the TilThermometer is primarily an occupational and ergonomic tool.