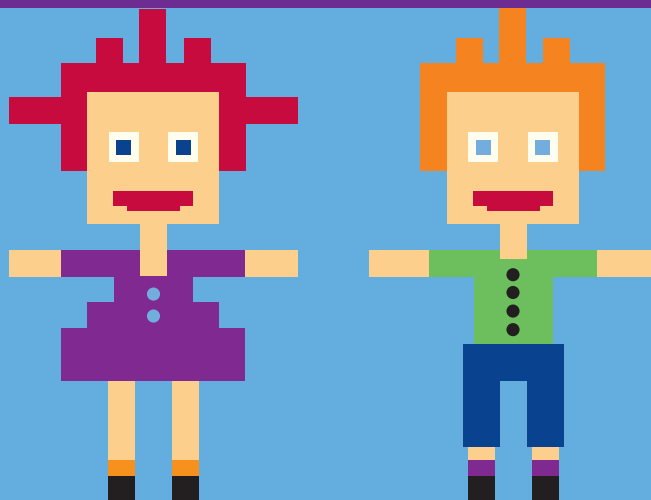


What about the children when parents are in the hospital?



When someone in a family becomes seriously ill, it will affect the entire family. Serious illness often involves a dramatic change in a life situation. Children and young people in grief are dependent on adult help. They need adults to talk with and help them articulate feelings and thoughts. Our main aim is to improve the hospital's practice and improve the follow-up service of children and young people.

Stavanger University Hospital works with this issue using the standards developed for the Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services.

New Law

In January 2010, a new law was enforced in Norway that safeguards children's and young people's rights as dependents. It recommends that health professionals offer conversation with the child about their hospitalized parent either alone with the child or together with their loved ones, their follow-up needs and offer information and advice on relevant measures.

Children accountable

At Stavanger University Hospital, we have established a group of division managers called "Children accountable" that organizes and develops this work. At Stavanger University Hospital we have 173 "Children accountable". All treatment units have their own "Children accountable". Each "Children accountable" is supervised by qualified tutors who are recruited from the somatic services, mental

health services and alcohol and drug services. "Children accountable" have routines that ensure that all children and young people who need this service, get this offer.

All the staff at the hospital has been informed about children's and young people's rights and needs as dependents. We recommend that the school nurse, school and/or kindergarten are informed so that children/youths in a difficult situation can be seen and taken care of.

Standards for health promoting

Our work with children who are dependents is a good example of how the standards for health promoting in hospitals may be operationalized effectively. The work depends on a clear management policy. We have established concrete procedures for assessment in this area. Information and interventions with the children and loved ones is evidence-based and age related. The work is characterized by continuity and cooperation, openness, early participation and age relevant information.

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