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1. Background:

Chronicle Workshop (CW) is a methodology developed to maintain and document important features during a specific period of time in a specific organization (Limborg and Hvenegaard, 2011). The focus is on important events as perceived by persons in the organization. It is a qualitative method where significant events are thematised.
This method has recently been used to assess all significant change processes that occurred at 14 investigated hospital wards during a period of 6-18 months. The aim was to discriminate between those events caused by the rationalization tool Value Stream Mapping (VSM) or a modified VSM tool also considering ergonomic dimensions, Ergonomic Value Stream Mapping (ErgoVSM), (Winkel et al, 2012) in relation to other events, the so called "context". For this purpose we developed a procedure to quantify the amount of context in the evaluation of the primary interventions caused by VSM or ErgoVSM.

2. Collection of context:

The participants (N=3-6) represented all job categories at the ward. The CW proceeded as a funnel i.e. starting with a broad question that is narrowed in during the subsequent two questions. The questions were answered individually on post-it-notes. All answers were placed on a timeline on the wall as they were explained, thus providing a detailed picture in chronological order.

3. Quantification of context:

All items were numbered consecutively. Items mentioned more than once by the same respondent were removed. Remaining items were categorized into two groups: 1) VSM and 2) ErgoVSM. The two categories were analyzed for their effect on three dimensions: 1) psychosocial work environment, 2) physical work environment and 3) efficiency. Effect was categorized into positive, none, or negative effect on the three dimensions. Lastly context was quantified by simply dividing the number of VSM events by the total number of events. On this basis it was possible to identify significant events ("context") that may have acted as modifiers of the impact caused by the ErgoVSM/VSM tool.