



Healthcare Logistician: a New Profession Needs a New Education

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Abstract

This paper is a description of the new competency based education needed by the new profession of Healthcare Logistician. The Healthcare Logistician education is based on the results of the Healthcare Logistician Project funded by Tekes (the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation) as a part of their Innovations in social and healthcare services programme. The aim of the Tekes programme is to renew health and social services and increase business opportunities through innovative activities by supporting creation of effective, customer oriented health and social services, more extensive preventive actions and diversified partnership and cooperation. The project is an example of a new type of cooperation with private and public sector organisations in healthcare services. It is implemented in cooperation with a private supplier of transport and logistics services Uudenmaan Pikakuljetus Oy as a part of the global DSV group, three regional hospital districts, and Lahti University of Applied Sciences.

The aim of The Healthcare Logistician Project was to create a new profession Healthcare Logistician (job descriptions and service concepts) to the border of the actual professional healthcare operations and logistics systems concerned. These job descriptions bring the professionalism of a logistician to the local micro level healthcare situations and in these cases the new logistician releases the real healthcare professionals from the supportive tasks to fully concentrate on the actual nursing or caring treatments needed. At the same time there will be exceeded a just-in-time and rationalized way to carry out the handling of inbound and outbound goods as well as the right dimensioned stocks, supporting different healthcare situations concerned.

The new profession created in the project is based on logistics tasks in demanding healthcare environments. Due to the particularly demanding working environments, existing logistics education as a part of business or technology education does not meet the high standards and requirements of healthcare, but it is required a special competency based healthcare logistician education which is a mix of logistics and social and health care education. The new education is primary intended on the other hand for young professionals in logistics interested in working in the healthcare services, and on the other hand those who have worked at social and health care tasks but who have to change for one reason or another (e.g. health reasons) to the other tasks. At the same time the new education offers an opportunity to specialization to the students of business logistics as well as students of health and social care.