

Quaderni del Ministero della Salute: policies for clinical appropriateness

Background information:

Quaderni del Ministero della Salute: policies for clinical appropriateness, technological and structural assistance to the elderly.

In an effort to standardize and establish the criteria for appropriateness of our health system are born the *Quaderni* (notebook) of the Ministry of Health, a bimonthly publication dedicated to a disease or class of diseases, designed and developed as an information and training. The topics covered so monograph address fields and the most important skills, if it is to find and meet the definition of common standards of work.

In particular, we want to give a concrete response to the need to rethink the organization of care defined chronic general diseases affecting the elderly.

The elderly must be viewed as people with specific needs, which originate from the interaction of the body with the environment, and with past life experience. The functional status of each elderly individual does not derive solely from age-associated health issues, but also from the interaction of pathologies with other factors such as economic, social (isolation and poverty), environmental, neuropsychological and objective conditions.

This *Quaderno* shows how the Italian NHS aims to promote an improved integration between prevention and cure on the one hand, and social and health needs of this population, on the other, recognising that the efficacy of health interventions requires an adequate continuity and follow-up at local level.

As age increases, fragility becomes apparent, and it correlates with disability and comorbidity. Fragility can be described as an increased vulnerability to stress, and can limit daily activities due to a number of different concomitant conditions, also including a gradual decrease in health status and functional ability. This in turn increases the risk of negative outcomes as described by some specific parameters outlined in the current *Quaderno* issue.

Aims (brief explanation):

1. Inform the population;
2. Activation of a Communication:
 - Efficient;
 - Immediate;
 - Low cost;
3. Spread skills:
 - Citizen;
 - Professionals.

Degree of implementation/progress status/current situation:

The project was presented 18 January 2011, at the Auditorium *Biagio d'Alba* from the Ministry of Health, Rome;

The *Quaderni della Salute* can be found on the web site or, if you prefer, can be downloaded in *pdf* version.

Who is responsible for the information (i.e. ministry, organisation, person)?

Ministry of Health

Who can be contacted in case of questions? (name, e-mail address)

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Please provide link or contact for further information:

www.salute.gov.it;

www.quadernidellasalute.it.