

Convention on Health Analysis and Management

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Moving from the hospital to primary care in chronic diseases

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1. Chronic pathologies: a combination of several diseases

Chronic pathologies refer to a combination of chronic diseases. This combination raises questions regarding the health and social systems. For example, there are many diabetic patients who suffer from depression, high blood pressure, etc. A study revealed that, in Scotland, more than half of people aged 65 years and above suffered from two or more chronic pathologies.

2. Primary care at the heart of the approach to chronic pathologies

Primary care must be placed at the centre of the approach to chronic pathologies. Accessibility must be considered, in particular through the geographic distribution of general practitioners or round-the-clock on-call services. From this perspective, many countries are failing when it comes to providing the best access to primary health care.

3. The importance of data relating to primary health care: the Danish example

Failure to provide the best access to primary health care can be explained by the complexity of gathering reliable and relevant data. However, certain countries such as Denmark have had some success, thanks to the collection of information on diagnosis and prescriptions.

4. The emergence of local governance bringing together health systems and social services

One of the difficulties, in other countries, is the fact that social services and health services operate independently. Locally, agreements can be reached to define a given region using data produced by social bodies and health services. New regional governance can then emerge. Clearly, this type of development requires firm political will.

5. Lack of impact on a systemic level

Despite various local experiments being carried out, patients do not feel that care has evolved over the past few years. To move forward and develop the experiments on a systemic level, development and the widespread use of data will assume fundamental importance. Instead of waiting for national deployment, hospitals and health regions must take proactive steps forward.