

Improving the assessment of people with care needs – the RAI system

[Coordination of care, care pathways]

Stephanie Carretero, Polibienestar Research Institute | Universitat de València (Spain)



Funded by the European Commission
under the Seventh Framework Programme
Grant agreement no. 223037

Introduction

Objectives: To improve continuity of care between different settings such as hospitals for the chronically ill, nursing homes and hospital at home services, using the RAI.

Key issues addressed: Place people in appropriate settings, predict future pathways, and improve the quality and efficiency of the LTC system

Current status:

PILOT PROJECT TERMINATED	PILOT PROJECT ONGOING	PROJECT TERMINATED	PROJECT ONGOING	IMPLEMENTED PRACTICE RESTRICTED AREAS	WIDELY SPREAD PRACTICE ROLLED OUT
-----------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	--	--------------------------------------

Why was this project developed/implemented?

- Lack of individualised and integrated plans for older people in need of LTC ...
 - no coordination among health and care systems (different assessments), resulting in
 - poor quality of care and more costs for the system

Main features of the example (description)

- Research projects funded by national and regional governments, developed mainly in Valencian Community and Murcia Region (Spain)
- Methods applied in Hospitals for the chronically ill, nursing homes and 'hospital-at-home' services
 - RAI system: standardised assessment of patients and grouping according to their degree of care needs.
 - RUG III: allocation of patients to care according to their needs.
 - Michigan Choice algorithm: best health or social care option.
 - Clinical assessment protocols: identification of problems for individual planning care.

.

Main features of the example (description)

- **2 phases of the project:**
 - **Phase 1:** Implementation of the RAI system and creation of the institutional web database
 - Training of professionals in the use of RAI: assessment, care planning, leadership and management, quality improvement and SPSS (database)
 - Pilot in social and health centre for the use of RAI
 - Data gathered in SV NURSING HOME/HOME CARE.NET, through a platform: www.e-valoras.com
 - **Phase 2:** Analysis of data to define and validate care pathways, individual care plans and calculate costs

Costs of the example

- Cost: 70,000 € per year for software licenses, training material, adaptation to the context, maintenance of the service and technical protocols
- No human resources cost included

What are/were the effects?

- Possibility of implementation of the RAI system in Spanish hospitals for the chronically ill, nursing homes, and hospital at home services
- Improvement of the resource allocation of people with LTC needs.
- Definition of efficient and effective health and social care pathways

What are/were the effects?

- Better coordination of health and social care services
- In the long term: higher cost-efficiency of the systems
- Improvements in planning of the provision and costs of social and health care services

Strengths and limitations

- **Strengths:**
 - Support of the Spanish Dependency Law (LTC legislation)
 - Simplification of the coordination of health and social care resources and better care itineraries (costs savings, quality of life and efficiency)
- **Weakness:**
 - How to motivate professionals in the use of RAI?
 - Economic investment in the whole system?
- **Threats:**
 - Current economic situation
 - Problems in the implementation of the Dependency Law (economic)

Conclusions

- **For practice:** RAI is a powerful tool for the optimization of care; needs the involvement and motivation of care professionals.
- **For policy-makers:** Increase investment in such integrated and coordinated care, return of investments at long term.
- **For research:** research on efficiency (economic impact) and motivation of care professionals.

Questions:

- Is the example relevant for your country and why (not)?
- What is crucial for its implementation?