

Summaries

Who can give me a help? Help-Relationships between Cronically Ills in the Internet Forum

(Andrea Paltrinieri and Margherita Pierantoni)

More and more people are using Internet to participate in electronic forum where they can exchange information about a particular disease, and patients and caregiver can find comfort and social support. This essay emphasizes the importance of these “virtual places” for health education and the promotion of disease self-management especially among patients with chronic or disabling pathologies. Secondly, it analyzes the factors enabling such solidarity creation and circulation among people who mostly do not interact with each other in the “real world”. The sociality displayed in computer mediated communication among strangers is made possible by factors which can be related to technology means, service configuration and the social characteristics of participants. Finally, some currently active electronic forums devoted to chronic patients or disabled people are described as an example.

Social and Health Informative Systems as a Tool for Prevention, Evaluation and Planning

(Fiorenza Deriu)

Fiorenza Deriu is concerned with the role of the Informative System in the National Health Services (Siss). After describing the recent Italian legislation on the topic, Deriu gives attention to the Informative Systems building and explores critically each steps. In conclusion, some normative indications are given about the Informative Systems role: their functions are directed toward prevention, evaluation and programmation.

E-Care: the Demand Side (Citizens and Associations)

(Bruno Pizzica)

Bruno Pizzica starts analyzing the deep demographic transformation at national level. The increasing aging of population demands an organizational social services transformation. One of the most important step toward the change could be the carrying out of e-care programs. More precisely, the communication and

information technologies could tip over the traditional relation between citizens and National Health Services. In this process, Pizzica also explores the role that citizens, associations and non-profit organizations are playing.

Europe and the New Health Perspectives

(Francesco Beltrame and Piergiulio Maryni)

Beltrame and Maryni analyse the relationship between Information and Communication Technologies and the governance of health care systems in an European frame. The situation described by the authors is twofolded. On one hand, European directives and even the latest Italian legislation are moving toward integration between human knowledge and information technologies, on the other hand local professional cultures, and resistance opposed by single actors, are breaking the change.

Community Health and Information Technology: A Cross-National Comparison

(Francesco M. Battisti and Maurizio Esposito)

Starting from a short excursus on the new chances of research opened by Information Technology in the health field, and on the informational needs of the physicians, Battisti and Esposito draw their attention on the use of Information Technology between european doctors. Their study, based on existing data, shows that the Italian physicians use the I.T. in a lesser extent if compared to their colleagues in France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland and Denmark. Moreover, the authors proposes an overview, on the same topic, on surveys conducted in Usa, Australia, and Singapore. A special attention is payed on doctors adopting I.T. in Sweden and Ireland.