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Conference Abstract

Integration of Home Care within; levels of health care, different sectors, governmental and non-governmental organisations and different branches of care. “How to deal with this difficult task?”

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Abstract

Purpose: To discuss opinions and experiences of the participants about integrating home care in a country, in which home-care has been introduced recently.

Context: Turkish Ministry of Health (MoH) introduced a new health care system in 2003 and between 2003-2012 primary and secondary cares were reorganised. Besides, hospital-based home health services have been started without planning the basics. In the previous system, “home call” was a duty of the primary care. In 1996, private organisations started to deliver organised home care services, paid by the patients. There was no legal regulation at the time, covering home care services. Since the need was extremely high, private sector was soon followed by local administrations and state hospitals. In 2005, and 2010, two different by-laws for home care services, were announced by MoH. After 2010, MoH rapidly organised hospital-based Home Care across the Country, covering only the home health services. Social services are covered by a different governmental organisation. However, this was only a “window dressing” activity without any background organisation. On the other hand, primary level health services of home-bound patients was defined as a duty of primary care team.

State of the art: Evidence suggests that Integrated Home Care; “integrated pathway between hospital services, primary care and social services”, is quite effective in terms of preventing death or further dependence. However, in Turkey although there are many organisations, there is a need of integration and coordination of care; a methodical approach to deliver coordination services, to develop quality standards of home care, and to measure the outcomes.

Statements for debate: How could we use the existing experience of integrated home care in Europe?

Which tools could be used to integrate home care services within different levels of care?

What is the role of reimbursement system in integration of home care?

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Keywords:

home care, integration of the care, primary care, social welfare

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