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Conference Abstract

The economic impact of the case management projects for community-dwelling frail older people

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Abstract

Background /Objectives: The Belgium National Institute of Health and Security Insurance (NIHDI) has funded for a four-year trial period (2010-2013) 21 case management projects conceived in a bottom-up approach, by the providers of home-care services and nursing homes. Their intervention is multidisciplinary aiming to foster both the appropriate health care services and the social support needed for the community frail older people. The cost impact of the projects is an important issue as the case management might impact the health care consumption.

Methods: A mixed method is used: the qualitative analysis of projects is essential to understand and describe the intervention ultimately implemented. The data collection consists of case studies through semi-structured interviews of the key professionals of projects, a yearly annual questionnaire and focus groups. The quantitative analysis is a prospective observational study using three main data sources matched for the patients of case management projects:

- the comprehensive geriatric assessment interRAI HomeCare (for the period 2010-2013) describing in depth the individual characteristics of patients
- the data of health care services reimbursed (2009-2012).

The control group used is constituted by the patients who do not benefit from case management (the permanent sample of socially insured persons in Belgium). Multivariate analyses are performed for specific patient profiles in order to quantify the likely variation of costs. The study population consists of frail older persons living in community (a total of 6 484 patients for an average age: 80.2 and 67% of women).

Conclusions: International literature often lacks to clearly demonstrate the impact of a better integrated care. In this study, a mix method and a long duration of follow up are necessary as the processes and the impact of the intervention are complex to assess. This method allows linking an in depth description of the organizational components of intervention to the impact on important health care consumptions: the nursing care and hospitalization. Therefore, for generalisation,

conclusions are useful for policy makers to better understand the economic consequences of the case management linked to the comprehensive description of the components of the intervention.

Keywords

frail older persons, economic evaluation, case management

Powerpoint presentation:

<http://www.integratedcarefoundation.org/content/new-research-integrated-care-0>
