

**ANALYSIS OF COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO CUTANEOUS SORES IN THE TERRITORY OF THE LOCAL HEALTH UNIT OF FLORENCE**

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**Aim:** Cutaneous sores represent a condition which has a marked social impact. They are characterized by high costs of hospitalization, difficulty of therapy and worsening in quality of life. Aim of this work is to estimate the costs of cutaneous sores in the territory of the Local Health Unit of Florence.

**Methods:** To produce an estimate of the whole performances and costs of hospitalization in the above mentioned territory, we have considered the DRGs (ICD IX-CM, 14th Ed.) 113, 114, 213, 217, 263, 264, 271, 285, 287. Besides, we have considered the costs attributable to anti decubitus and dressing devices.

**Results:** In 2005, the hospitalizations due to cutaneous sores have been 838. More than 64% has regarded persons older than 65 years. The specific disease hospitalization rate is 1.04/1000 persons, which tends to increase with age. 439 subjects (52.4%) have been ordinarily hospitalized and determined 57,7% of total costs (total costs of hospitalisation: 4587678.53 €). If we apply this specific disease hospitalization rate to Italian population (at 1st January 2006), we could estimate more than 61.000 hospitalizations per year, with total costs more than doubled in comparison with 1999 (total amount of more than 335 million €). The mean length of stay in hospital has been 13.8 days (range 1-134 days). Total costs of territorial provision for anti decubitus devices have been as follows: 155786.90 € for anti decubitus pillows and beddings; 100767.15 € for orthopaedic beds; 430102.79 € for dressing products.

**Conclusions-Discussion:** This analysis provides preliminary data, though underestimated, to assess needs and typologies of hospital services for persons who live in Florence and surroundings. The main limits are represented by the exclusion of general costs due to other health services and professionals (General Practitioners, Specialists and Nurses). Future advances should regard the evaluation of other costs, namely linked to the provision of territorial performances and services, and the execution of a cost-effectiveness analysis on the comparison between traditional vs. advanced dressing products.