INFO RP

An observational study of information prescription in Italy

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BACKGROUND: The project has been included in the Regina Elena National Cancer Institute's OECI Improvement Plan "Personalization Centralization and Humanization of the Care". The initiative draws on international projects such as "Information RX" produced in the USA by the National Library of Medicine and various medical organizations. Important studies underline that the informed patient follows more closely the doctor's prescriptions, with an improved response to the treatments. In fact, these can often be ineffective because of lack of adherence and knowledge of their health issues. Physicians, using specific prescription pads, recommend to read information on the pathologies they suffer from important quality portals for patients and family members, in particular MedlinePlus and Genetic Home Reference. The idea at our Institution is to conduct a pilot project involving the Endocrinology Unit and the Scientific Library, which already provides information to patients and their relatives (Patient Library). The mission of the Patient Library is to deliver valid and up-to-date information available using brochures produced by associations and scientific societies, trusted websites and portals in order to respond to their information needs.



METHODS: 100 patients will be recruited. They will be directed to the consultation of information at the Patient Library, with *prescription pads* signed by the medical staff of the Endocrinology Unit. The Library will play the role of delivering the information, verifying the reliability of the sources, based on the criteria needed to identify good health information. The prescription process will be monitored with quantitative and qualitative criteria (e.g. questionnaires, focus groups, etc.). It will be verified: the number and composition of patients and/or their relatives who will use the information service, the expressed information needs, the satisfaction of the initiative, the usefulness and impact of the provided documentation, the resilience and other psychological aspects.



Info RP form



ATTENDED RESULTS: If positively acting in the diagnostic-therapeutic pathway, this observational pilot study should allow in the future the extension of the project to the whole organization, guaranteeing the patient's empowerment for the choice of treatments and a better patient-physician relationship.



