



Abstract of parallel session: 2

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Abstract

(Max 2000 characters, incl. spaces):

HomeCareData: a new database for long-term care planning

With population ageing, home care services have gained importance as providers of long-term care for the elderly. Their planning and organisation is essential. Health policy makers, service providers and consumers hence need sound data on supply, demand and quality of home care services.

Yet, in Switzerland such information is scarce, with official statistics on home care services comprising only aggregated data. In this regard, the HomeCareData (HCD) – a new platform developed by the Swiss Association of Home Care Organizations and centralizing patient data from non-profit local home care organizations (Spitex) – is promising. Data contain information about the patient's socio-demographic situation, health status, resources, limitations, need for care and planned services. And this, at an individual (patient) level. However, HCD is young, is not mature yet and is hence so far scientifically unexploited.

The NFP74 project “Swiss Home Care Data: patient profiles and quality measures for home care” intends as one of its goals to make HCD a robust database available for scientific research and for planning and organisation of long-term care. To this end, we provide support to the Swiss Association of Home Care Organizations in order to improve the robustness of HCD: Periodically the quality of the data, the possibility of fusion with other Swiss health databases and the possibility of conducting robust analysis are verified and solutions for improvement are given to the Association.

Our presentation will focus on two aspects of our study. Firstly we will present the HomeCareData and show its relevance for research and health care planning. Secondly, we will present first results, that is, the current state of the HCD data quality and representativity.