

INTEGRATION BETWEEN HOSPITAL AND TERRITORY IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF BOLOGNA

The Azienda USL of Bologna is one of the largest local health authorities in Italy with a population of approximately 900,000 inhabitants - spread over 6 health districts and 50 municipalities. The territory has a high hospital offer with 9 hospitals managed directly by the AUSL (1,818 beds), the Policlinico S. Orsola Malpighi (1,622 beds), the Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli (327 beds) and 11 accredited private nursing homes (1,076 beds).

Garsia®

The Hospital Territory Continuity Centres (CCOT) project started in 2007 with the activation of the first discharge pathway for stabilised patients who can return home but need health protection and/or social support at home. The pathway provides for the integration, through district operating centres (CCOT), of the hospital wards with the **district ADI service** and the **social service** of the 50 municipalities that, already in 1997, shared a single software platform - **Garsia®** - for the management of the Welfare system integrated with the health authority.

In 2009, a second pathway was activated, for patients who are unstable or who require hospital rehabilitation treatment before being discharged home, through a **transfer to a facility** belonging to the intermediate care network. The pathway involves the use of a **metropolitan operations centre (CEMPA)** which integrates hospital wards with the intermediate care network - receiving requests from the former and availability from the latter - and managing optimal triage.

The use of the **Garsia®** platform has made it possible to streamline protected discharge paths, to reduce both hospital waiting times and the number of activities in charge of wards - previously managed manually - and to increase the bed turnover index by 'systemising' territorial resources.

Since 2012, all protected discharges and transfers from every hospital in the metropolitan area are fully dematerialised thanks to the software platform. In 2014, some 15,000 cases were handled, of which 9,000 on the protected discharge route and 6,000 on the route involving a period of in-patient care.

[Ref. MECOSAN n. 84/2012 "La rete della post-acuzie: un sistema di continuità di cura ospedale-territorio dell'area bolognese"]

MAIN REFERENCES: Azienda USL of Bologna, Azienda USL of Ferrara, Azienda ULSS Marca Trevigiana.

