

SUMMARY



FINANCING CARE: INNOVATIVE NURSING strategies for quality maintenance

Secrétariat international des infirmières et infirmiers de l'espace francophone (SIDIIEF)

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Health care financing and its modalities have an undeniable impact on the organization of nursing care and services. Therefore, the Secrétariat international des infirmières et infirmiers de l'espace francophone (SIDIIEF), in collaboration with the Advisory Council on Quality of Care and Patient Safety, wishes to support and consolidate the efforts of nurse managers to optimize quality of care and patient safety in the context of current developments in the financing of nursing care.

This publication focuses on the impact of different financing mechanisms on the organization of care and on the management strategies needed to maintain quality of care. It is also an appeal to the nursing profession to take an in depth interest in this issue and to consider the actions that must be taken to assert its innovative leadership. In the current context, the judicious use of the resources invested in health is essential; the sustainability of the system is at stake. The proactive, rigorous and judicious action of leaders will produce concrete results that will support quality nursing care.

In this regard, it should be noted that:

- The financing of health systems is a fundamental and priority public policy issue in all countries according to the Organization for Economic Co operation and Development's (OECD) latest health spending projections up to 2030. Health spending exceeds growth of the overall economy and this situation is not sustainable in the long term

- The current explosion in health care costs is partly due to the increase in chronic diseases and population ageing, which increases the need for nursing care. However, since the increase in the number of nurses is not commensurate with needs and since financial resources are limited, governments are aiming for a profound transformation of health systems in some countries with the objective of achieving greater efficiency.
- Savings can easily be made, for almost 20% of spending is due to overuse of health systems, the provision of inappropriate care or the treatment of potentially preventable complications associated with care.
- The hospital centred organization of care is still largely financed by a model based on the reimbursement of hospital stays, itself based on an accounting valuation of the volume of care activity or on patient conditions. However, the current financing mechanisms have reached a certain limit, to the detriment of the results obtained, and they systematically underestimate actual needs.

Thus, SIDIEFF's Advisory Council on Quality of Care and Patient Safety wishes to propose concrete avenues for action to ensure improved efficiency in health care and adequate financing of nursing care. It also aims to enable nursing leaders to play an active role in decisions on the transformation and financing of health systems.

To this end, SIDIEFF makes the following recommendations:

- Ensure access to data: one of the keys to financing nursing care at its fair value
- Make a necessary shift to more relevant nursing care
- Develop nursing expertise as a lever for transformation
- Review the financing mechanisms of nursing care
- Deploy nursing leadership in the transformation of financing mechanisms

In a universal context of cost management in health care services, SIDIEFF believes that optimizing performance and quality of care should be common objectives. Financing mechanisms are constantly evolving and the profession must play a more active role. Through this publication, SIDIEFF wishes to shed light on issues as critical as quality of care and patient safety. It also wants to mobilize the profession to engage in promising avenues for action to improve the financing of nursing care.