



THE 'TELEMEDICINE MODEL' IN THE HOME ARTIFICIAL NUTRITION SERVICE (CENTRO NAD) - ASL AVELLINO

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Background and aims

Many cancer patients of the healthcare system develop increased risk of malnutrition as a result of the long-term disabling diseases. This negatively affects the disease progression and cancer therapy.

The NAD center of the ASL Avellino provides each patient equipment necessary to implement artificial nutrition treatment (enteral/parenteral nutrition mixtures, device, supplementary materials and equipment) within 72 hours, a very fast interval from patient enrollment. Through the training of the patients, we ensure the correct administration of nutrients, pumps and devices, indispensable features for the implementation of home artificial nutrition methodology.

As community medicine institution, ASL Avellino goal is to offer a telemedicine service that can follow the patient for every need and throughout the course of the pathology tackling the malnutrition consolidation. That results in:

Methods and results

- 1) Teleconsultation, support to apply and fulfill the NAD requirements, indication of implementation methods, monitoring of nutritional status, correction of nutritional plans based on subsequent needs.
- 2) Teleassistance, a toll-free telephone number active 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and prompt assistance of trained operators.
- 3) Telemonitoring, data upload and transmission to the Home Artificial Nutrition Service of patient's health, metabolic parameters and the nutrition method applied (e.g. pump flow rate).

Conclusions

The combination ASL capillary service with Teleconsultation, Teleassistance and Telemonitoring services makes the NAD of the ASL Avellino an excellent methodology prototype as model for more communities. Telemedicine includes the characteristics of excellence in terms of efficiency and economic compatibility.

