

# Politica sanitaria e salute occupazionale: strumenti e metodi per l'assicurazione della qualità e dell'appropriatezza degli interventi

G. FRANCO

Cattedra di Medicina del lavoro dell'Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Modena

## KEY WORDS

Guidelines; evidence based medicine; quality assurance; health policy

## SUMMARY

**«Health policy and occupational health: tools and methods to assure quality and appropriateness of interventions».** **Background:** *Although all health care organizations and professionals are encouraged to follow the explicit aim of reducing the burden of illness, accidents and disability, there is increasing pressure on health professionals to ensure that the practice be based on a quality standard and on evidence of appropriateness.* **Objectives and Methods:** *The paper aims to focus on both the concept and dimensions of appropriateness (a complex issue with various dimensions and definitions) and on the different research and practice models aimed at search, analysis and synthesis of the best available evidence to be applied in the decision process of health and medical practice. Literature analysis has been carried out to find available tools and methods to identify, implement and monitor the evidence of efficacy in health care systems and services.* **Results:** *Most definitions of appropriateness address a number of requirements. An appropriate practice should be effective (based on sound evidence); efficient (providing that cost is considered) and consistent with the ethical principles and preferences of the relevant individual, community or society. Appropriateness is considered as the next frontier in the development of health care research: there is still limited knowledge, awareness, or research on this aspect. Health Technology Assessment consists of a multidisciplinary activity based on the systematic examination of technical performance, safety, clinical effectiveness and efficiency, including socio-economic, legal and ethical aspects. Evidence Based Medicine originates from an individual perspective and aims at using rigorous criteria to obtain the best available evidence in order to provide efficient interventions. The Clinical Practice Guidelines, based on both evidence and opinions of experts, are intended to assist clinical decisions for health professional and providers for the improvement of professional practices and system efficiency, taking into account local customers, health needs and preferences.* **Conclusions:** *Several models exist for measuring and evaluating the efficacy of health systems and health services. They can be adapted for evaluating and measuring public and occupational health practices. These tools support good practice through quality-standardized interventions aiming at the health protection of communities and individuals. These models, which are presented in a specific framework in which their outcomes and critical factors are evaluated, should be adapted to public and occupational health interventions to satisfy implicit and explicit needs of individuals and populations at risk thus assuring their quality and appropriateness.*

---

Pervenuto il 24.6.2003 - Accettato il 23.7.2003

Corrispondenza: G. Franco, Cattedra di Medicina del lavoro dell'Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Largo del Pozzo 71, 41100 Modena - Tel. 059 42 22 766 - Fax 059 27 08 66 - E-mail: franco@unimo.it