

General Paediatrics in Europe: what is new?

Integration of general pediatric services (primary and/or secondary care) in Spain

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Political / Sanitary organization



17 autonomous communities + 2 cities

Spain. Demographic data

- General population: 44.1 mill.
- Pediatric pop. 0-14: 6.6 mill. (aprox).
- Natality rate x 1000 inhabitants: 10.62 (2004)
(rising from 9.23 in 1995; 9.88 in 2000)
- N° of children per women: 1.32 (up from 1.12 1999)
- Primary care pediatricians working in the public health care system: 4.965 aprox. + pediatricians working in private practice (n° unknown)

Pediatric model of primary care

- **Pediatricians**
 - **General Practitioners (mainly rural areas)**
 - **Family Doctors (rural and some urban areas)**

**Public
Primary
Care
Center**

**Family doctors > 15 y
Pediatricians 0-14
Nurses
Odontologists
Social worker**



Actual evidence

- Secondary and tertiary care have walked together (sharing problems and looking for solutions).
- Primary care has developed its own way (suffering the lack of coordination with the other pediatric health care providers, mainly those based in hospital and to lesser extent those based outside hospital).
- Increasing awareness that coordination is necessary. Integrated providers have a competitive benefit but there is a high risk for primary care independence in terms of planning and priorities.

Primary-secondary care interaction, collaboration and communication

Main topics

CME

Clinical research

Workforce Issues

Networking

Continuing medical education (CME)

- CME for primary care pediatricians developed and given by secondary and tertiary care pediatricians
- CME for primary care developed by primary care.
- Intensive courses (1-4 days) devoted to special topics

Clinical research

- Hospital and Primary care research (Clinical trials mainly in vaccines. Pharmaceutical companies). Groups in Valencia, Madrid, Alicante, Basque country and Catalonia
- Epidemiological research primary care (aimed to establish prevalence for several diseases)

Workforce Issues

- Increasing need of pediatricians for hospital emergency wards drives primary care pediatricians to this work place in addition to their primary care post (1-2 times a week).
- New mixed contract formulas: mainly when employers manage hospital + primary care centers (20 h primary care + 20 h hospital wards)

Networking

- **Catalonia (pop. 7.000.000):**
 - **Web based primary care Medical Records**
 - **Partially integrated with Rx and Blood test results**
 - **In near future shared information with hospital records**

Future trends

- Lack of pediatricians to meet the demands of primary care in a fast growing society (immigration).
- Integrated services primary-secondary and primary/other health care providers.
- Increasing role of nurses in pediatric primary care (well being child care program)