

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF PRESSURE ULCERS AND NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN ELDERLY POPULATION: DEVELOPMENT AND FIRST RESULTS OF AN ICT TOOL FOR CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT

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Tackling the problem of PU involves looking for new recording methods and information sharing strategies. ICT tools might help us to achieve and guarantee good quality care and homogeneity in performed procedures.

We have developed a software solution which helps/guides the health professional to take decisions about the prevention and treatment of PU and the nutritional status of patients.

The software installed in a mobile device allows the health professionals to collect information at the bedside and to get a real-time analysis of the clinical condition. This assessment generates a list of recommendations associated with clinical stage of the ulcer, nutritional status and identified risks.

A specific website is part of the solution; it allows not only keeping records of patients and their condition but also generating reports based on all the collected data, personalizing the analysis in order to obtain alarms with various levels and priorities. The idea is to improve the management of the information thanks to the triage done automatically; the health worker can focus on those situations which require more urgent intervention. On the other hand, the website becomes a collaborating space that offers the opportunity to shared case information with PU-specialized-units.

First results: three centers and 69 residents are taking part in this project. During the first phase 27 nutritional status, 22 PU risk assessments and 230 wound monitoring processes have been performed. Health care professionals think the system is useful and easy to use.