



The Italian guidelines for Family or Community Nurses (IFoC)

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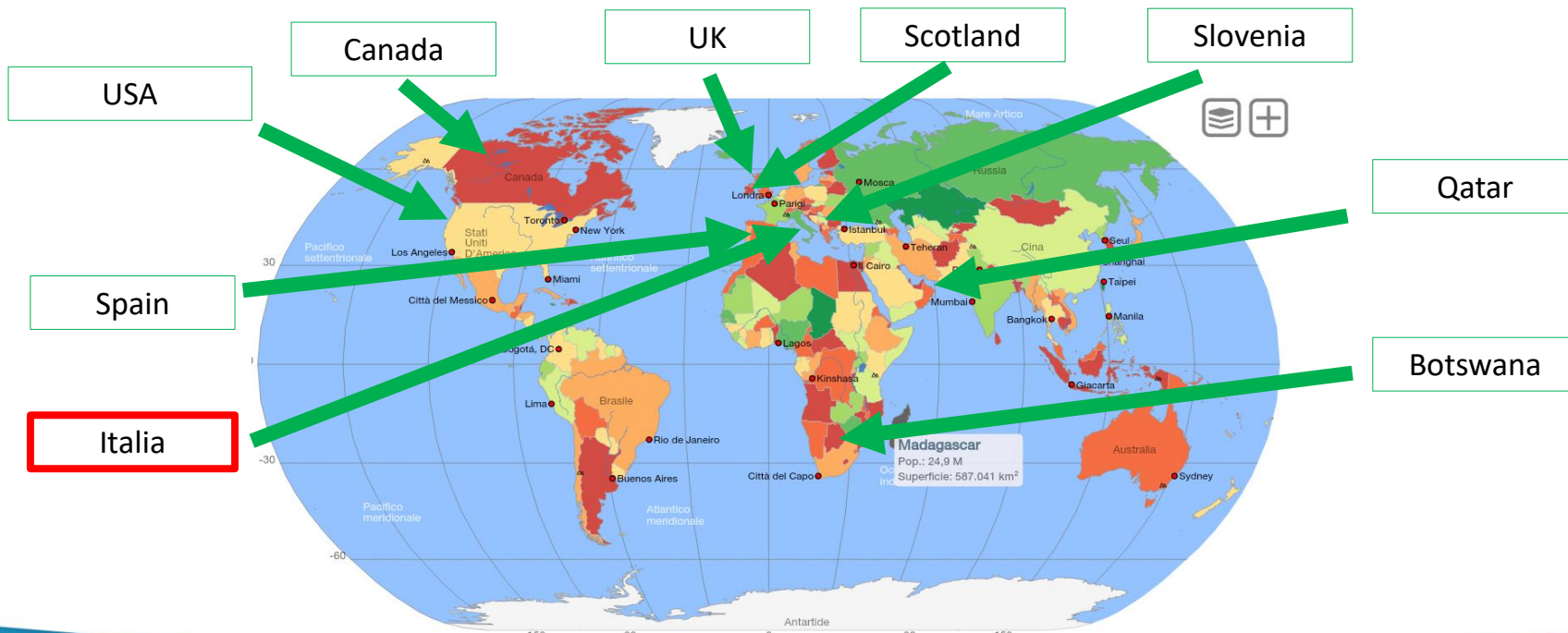
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#EHMA2025

Italy's IFoC model as part of European and global community care innovation.



Guidelines for family or community nurses

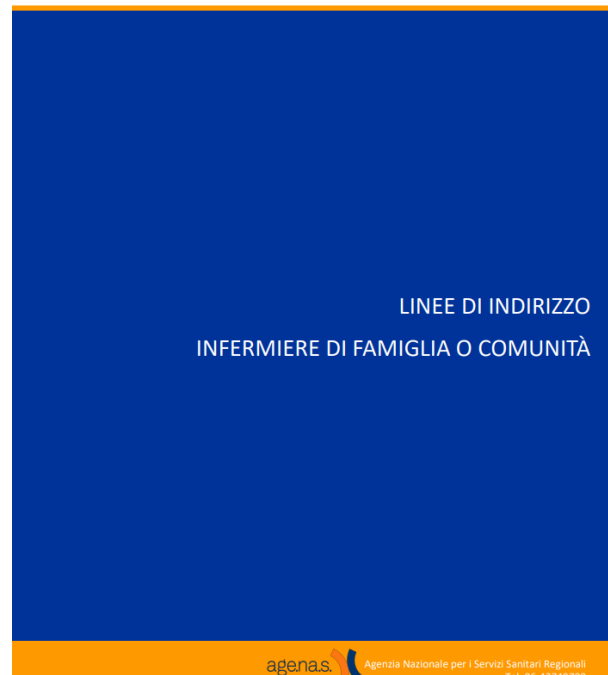
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Working group

- Agenas
- MoH
- the Universities of Pisa and Turin
- members of the Regions (Marche, Campania, ER, Tuscany, Piedmont, Umbria, FVG, Apulia, Lombardy, PA Trento)
- FNOPI
- APRIRE
- AIFEC.



Agenzia Nazionale per i Servizi Sanitari Regionali



The introduction of the Family or Community Nurse (IFoC)

(D.L. n. 34/2020, art. 1 c. 5)

Aims to strengthen the care system in the territory

The IFoC is a professional responsible for nursing processes in the family and community setting who, through a continuous and proactive presence in the area/environment or community of reference, ensures nursing care in collaboration with all professionals in the community

The IFoC interacts with all formal and informal community resources and contributes to the community/generational welfare network. He/she is a professional with a strong orientation towards proactive health management

Target population

The IFoC works with all citizens, healthy and sick

With a view to equity, it identifies on its territory the population groups considered most fragile on which to activate personalised health promotion, prevention and treatment projects with primary focus

On a transitional basis and until the IFoC has a widespread presence in the territory, it may be useful to prioritise, on the basis of local needs and data, the care of specific populations, e.g. people with chronic diseases, the assessment of the needs of the frail population, and the construction of networks

Levels of IFoC intervention



Outpatient

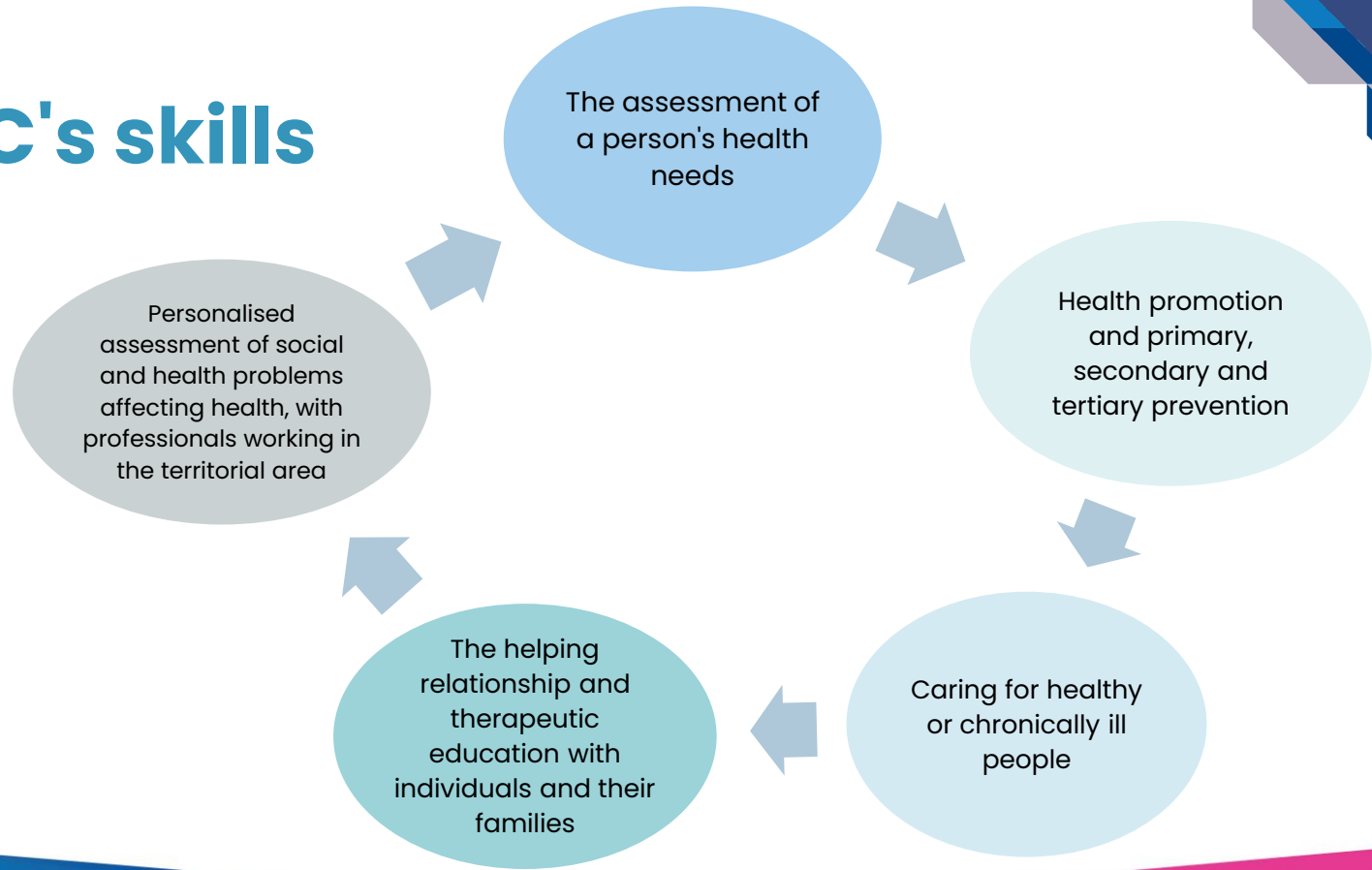


Home care



Community

The IFoC's skills



IFoC: organizational model

The IFoC is an employee of the Regional Health Service who reports to the health district

It operates on the territorial service within the Community Homes, COTs and outreach clinics

Implements interventions based on proximity and initiative models

It integrates with existing services, through shared pathways and the definition of specific roles and the strengthening and development of the social-health network with action in and with families/communities

IFoC – Standard

DM 77/2022 – **1 IFoC per 3,000 inhabitants**

The standard is to be understood as the total number of IFoC employed in the different care settings in which territorial care is divided

The catchment area may vary depending on the orographic characteristics of the territory, such as inland areas, islands, mountain communities

IFoC – Training

First-level Master's Degree in Family or Community Nursing

- Is it possible to obtain the post bachelor degree at several Italian universities in various regions

Regional training courses

- In view of the need for a large number of IFoCs in the country for initial IFoC training
- Possibility of recognition, in the form of CFU credits and in agreement with the universities, for the subsequent master's degree

AGENAS-FNOPI TRAINING COURSE PROPOSAL:

In order to standardise training at national level and have trained professionals able to respond to the needs of the new territorial organisational model.

It should not be intended as a substitute for university courses but as a supplement and useful for providing an initial level of knowledge and skills.

- 100 hours of theoretical training (to be carried out by synchronous and asynchronous distance learning)
- 100 hours of 'field' training, fostering experiential learning, supervised by a tutor (preferably IFoC) and/or online skills workshops;
- 20 hours of project work.

IFoC – Monitoring and Evaluation

Process assessment

- Definition of indicators which measure the progress of the implementation process of IFoC (e.g. no. of IFoC/no. of inhabitants; no. of persons taken into care, etc.);
- Activation of neighbourhood networks, voluntary work, etc. for the person – cohorts of persons taken into care on specific projects;
- Individual Care Plans activated, involvement of institutional actors, preferential pathways activated (hospital-territory integration on protected discharges, planned admissions, etc.).

Impact and outcome assessment

- definition of an evaluation model that explores the impact on the person, family, community, organisation and staff;
- evaluation centred on IFoC-sensitive outcomes.

Home care nurses VS IFoC

Home care nurses

People are cared for **at home** through an intake process initiated by the GP

The **activation proposal** can also be made by hospitals

Ensuring home-based interventions characterised by **varying levels of care intensity and complexity**

Multidimensional assessment within specific care pathways and a **personalised care plan**

IFoC

Person cared for/caregiver or community included in a health and social context selected on the basis of stratifications derived from institutional information flows or from analyses of the health determinants of a specific territory

Assessment, management, **integration and facilitation of integrated care processes** in order to maintain and improve the satisfaction of needs and the level of health

To be a **stable reference point for the patient and their caregivers** from the moment of taking charge

Interface for colleagues in the case of complex cases

At Home-outpatient-community

The Future of Community Healthcare



Home as a place of care by exploiting technological innovation

Integrated, multidisciplinary and multi-professional care

Diversified service offer capable of responding to the **changing health needs** of the population also thanks to **telemedicine**

Personalised care, from prevention to treatment, also thanks to the use of big data and artificial intelligence support systems

Promotion of **health services close to the citizen and easily accessible**

Empowerment of citizens inside and outside healthcare settings

Role and professional development

Key role in the new
territorial care reform

New roles and new
organisational models

Strengthening of existing
specialisations

Development of new
areas of expertise

Innovative and
technological model of
telematic assistance

Increased skills in the
comprehensive care of
the patient and the
family, going beyond the
performance model

Predominantly nursing-
led in-patient units

Increased use of telecare
and telemedicine tools

Development of
technical, professional,
digital and managerial
skills

The IFoC addresses social and health needs that do not fit into standard pathways



THANK YOU

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