

Organisation and primary care policies :
concepts, tools and practices in Europe and USA
Contributions to France issues
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Organisational Committee : Drees : Anne-Marie Brocas, Lucile Olier, François Guillaumat-Tailliet et pour l'Irdes : Chantal Cases, Yann Bourgueil, Thomas Cartier, Michel Naiditch, Julien Mousques.

In France, ambulatory care is currently confronted with major evolutions of care supply and demand. This process goes with reforms as the bill HPST^G adopted in 2009, which announces a big step since it defines general practice missions and primary care^G. It reinforces the current process of regionalisation of the health system by creating Regional Health Agencies (ARS). These structures, which will have widened competencies on ambulatory and medico-social fields, will have powerful means of action like definition of (unopposable) ambulatory care organization schemes, continuous care organization, ability to directly contract with health professionals groups (health centres, nursing homes, health networks...). At first sight, ARS would be able to make the junction among professional dynamics of reorganization, evolution of patients' needs and territorial organization requirements of primary care. Implementation of these objectives needs to develop conceptual tools (i.e. definition of the range of services furnished by primary care professionals) and operational tools (i.e. access time indicators, use rates, quality indicators, definition tools of primary care territories, practice regulation methods...), which both will be used to organize primary care, but also their articulation with secondary care, hospitals and medico-social field.

If ambulatory care is already the centre of initiatives and experimentations led by many different actors in the French context, these are little known and evaluated. Moreover, they are strongly less developed than in countries which decided to build their health policies around primary care. As a result, we think this is the most appropriate time to explore, within the framework of a conference, definitions, tools, methods and practices of organization and regulation of primary care abroad.

The main objective of this conference is to bring knowledge and points of reference on primary care policies and concrete organizations in foreign countries to the different people who will be in charge of the management and implementation of these policies within the ARS.

A secondary objective could be, in a more operational way, enlightened by foreign experiences to explore challenges and questions asked by the future primary care organization in France, in order to bring up some working main lines both for stakeholders and researchers.

This audience will include administrative decision-makers (URCAM^G, ARH^G, DRASS^G, DDASS^G, central administrations, CNAM^G, CPAM^G), politicians (territorial units representatives in particular), health professionals (URML^G, trade unions^G, orders/associations^G, academic people) and researchers.