

A new organizational model to manage chronic diseases with digital medicine tools

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Background

Technological innovation, in its broadest meaning, is one of the elements characterizing the governance of health systems most susceptible to transformation.

Digital Health technologies, in particular Digital Medicine tools, can help to build and support the "Connected Care" care pathways of Proximity Care and Telemedicine promoting an integrated system as described in the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience (PNRR).

Objective

This study aims at analyzing the impact of Digital Medicines on the current model of management of patients with chronic diseases in Italy.

Methods

The analysis of the impact of Digital Medicines in the Italian national healthcare context started from a previous review aimed at understanding the readiness of the different regions regarding the implementation of digital therapies in the context of healthcare processes.

The ultimate goal was the creation of a "new pathway" for the management of patients suffering by chronic diseases (i.e. type 2 diabetes) integrated with Digital Health technologies.

Results

Starting from the current clinical pathway used to treat patients with diabetes, the analysis of the literature and the available scientific evidence, the pillars of a new management model were identified: organizational and management assets, skills, platforms enabling new health technologies and regulatory frameworks.

Each pillar contains the bricks characterizing the ideal therapeutic pathway. In particular, some of these elements represent the evolution of the already available factors that largely influenced the solutions adopted by the Italian Regions.

The bricks defined as "innovative" flank the previous ones and define the new pathway for diabetic disease management within the NHS.

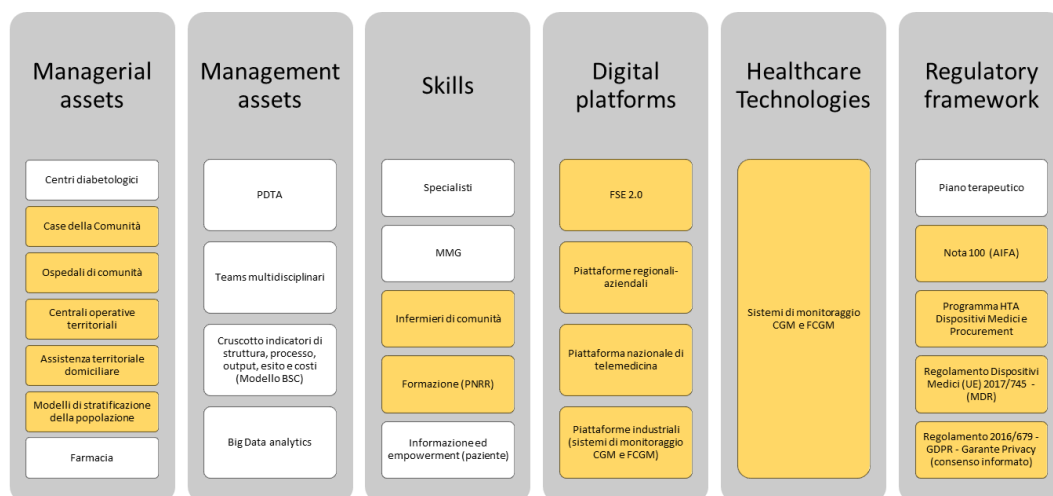
Conclusion

The development of a new framework for the management of chronic patients allowed by the introduction of new tools of Digital Medicine must consider two major ecosystems: the management healthcare data and the health system governance. On an organizational level, the tools of Digital Medicine, being vehicles for innovation, generate an important impact even considering the uniformity and the equality of access to care throughout the country.

Disclosure

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Fig. 1 The new model proposed



Key references

1. DIGITAL MEDICINE, Strumenti terapeutici innovativi per un cambio di paradigma nell'assistenza sanitaria digitale.
2. Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (2021). Piano Nazionale Ripresa e Resilienza. Italia.
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New Asset

Existing element