

### **363: THE BELGIAN COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS: FROM REGISTRIES TO MULTIDISCIPLINARITY**

#### **Authors:**

Meeus P., Dargent G., Clercx A., Reper P., Perissino A.

The Colleges of Physicians have been created by the Belgian government in 1999, in order to evaluate the quality of care in the hospitals, as requested by the law on hospitals. Nine Colleges have started their activities at that time : In Vitro Fertilization, Emergency care, Intensive care, Dialysis, Geriatrics, Neonatal Intensive care, Radiotherapy, NMR, and Cardiology.

#### **Method:**

The methodology used by the Colleges, although there may have variations from one college to another, is :

- 1) to set up and define their organization;
- 2) to adopt a methodology in order to evaluate the quality of care;
- 3) to measure quality of the services concerned by the college specificity in the various belgian hospitals;
- 4) to produce a feed back and to send it to the hospitals;
- 5) to stimulate each hospital to improve the quality of the medical activities, as necessary.

When the cycle is completed, it starts again with the same quality indicators, broader indicators or with a different subject.

#### **Results :**

At this time, various colleges have completed an entire cycle, although the last step (to stimulate each hospital to improve the medical activities) is quite difficult because there is no legal obligation for an hospital to follow the recommendations of a College of Physicians. Moreover, various colleges have started multidisciplinary activities, associating two different colleges (emergency care and geriatrics, for example), different specialities among a college (cardiology) or different professionals (doctors and nurses for dialysis, for example).

We will present the results of the experience trough various case studies.

#### **Conclusions :**

The experience of the Colleges has lead to interesting results although difficulties exist (representation of the members of the Colleges, financing of the registries, multidisciplinary, implemetation of the results in each hospital). Anyway, that experience demonstrates that a few medical professionals, coming from the field and without experience in the quality evaluation process, are able to launch a process leading to tangible results.