

Primary care institutions in the covid period: the case of nursing homes

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INTRODUCTION

The major transformations affecting the healthcare sector are fundamentally shifting part of the hospital activity to the frontline and the patient's home. These evolutions acutely raise the question of maintaining of the care continuity, but also of evolving professional skills and institutions to these new realities. In this respect, the current health crisis reveals the difficulties in maintaining the links between hospital and first line care. It is also speeding up to the debate about the transfer of skills between professions. From an institutional point of view, is there a displacement of the negotiated order from the hospital to primary care? How might this impact formal and informal hierarchies between care professions? How does it impact the professional skills?

METHOD

To answer these questions, a qualitative survey in nursing home was conducted during the Covid-19 crisis. Interviews were carried out with care professionals working in these facilities, with a focus on the reallocation of tasks between professions during this period.

RESULTS

In certain respects and locally, the results highlight the rupture of links between the primary (general practioners) and secondary (hospitals) care , with subsequent isolation of nursing homes at the heart of the crisis. We therefore propose to further analyse the way in which tasks were distributed among professionals during the first Covid-19 wave. From an institutional point of view, the sociological concept of total institution is promising to pursus the analysis of this particular sector during the crisis.

KEY WORDS

Nursing homes / Total institution / professional skills