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The Bed Nurse Manager to improve the patient flow within the hospital

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Centralized coordination of hospital beds was necessary to face the continuous overcrowding in the emergency room and the progressive reduction of acute care beds, for this purpose Bed Managers, often Nurses, have been set up in many Italian hospitals. This figure, borrowed from the Anglo-Saxon contexts, is an important reference point for the management of the patient's care path and is able to combine the different clinical and care needs in order to include the patient in the appropriate care setting in the shortest possible time. The primary activity of the Bed Manager is to establish constant connections between the emergency room, individual operating units, and services for continuity of care.

Since 2015, in a university hospital in Turin, two Coordinating Nurses have been identified to facilitate the path of the patient from the Emergency Room to the operating units in the hospital. A Nurse Manager's skills profile was formalized and training opportunities were created for the two Bed

Managers, in 2017 the role of Bed Manager Nurse for the surgical area and for the medical area was made official. The activities of Bed Managers are adapting work practices to the general context, reducing overcrowding by reducing hospital stays, planning interventions to anticipate the demand for beds and promptly adopting measures for necessary interventions. Today there are no certain data that correlate Bed management activities with improvement of care; however, reduction of hospitalization days, prompt admission of patients in the most appropriate care setting, reduction of hospitalizations outside the competent operating unit, and improvement of the relationships between the emergency room and hospital wards confirm the usefulness of the function of the Bed Manager Nurse and the capability of nurses to manage the care path of the patient in order to reach the appropriate care setting.

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