



ACCESS TO TIMELY FORMAL CARE

Analyse the pathways to care for people with dementia and their families to better understand the reasons for inequalities in access to healthcare.

In the absence of a cure that can alter the course of dementia diseases, a timely diagnosis is important. It opens the way to future care and treatment, and can help people take control of their lives and plan ahead. Many EU countries have adopted strategies to promote timely recognition of dementia. Timely access to dementia care services, such as home care, is important for reducing health costs by postponing nursing home placement. Despite these developments, people with moderate to severe dementia and their carers are often not receiving services of the type, quality and timing that they need. Actifcare aims to better understand the reasons for this mismatch between the need for, access to, and use of formal care services.

What is the impact of dementia support?

Dementia diseases pose a significant health, social and economic challenge. It is estimated that 9.9 million people in Europe have dementia¹, accounting for over 28% of the total number of people with dementia worldwide. As a result, the World Health Organisation has made dementia a public health priority². A person with moderate dementia (PwD) will need increasing amounts of care and support from social care services as they start to lose the ability to perform everyday tasks. Two thirds of PwD are living in the community either alone or with a family member, and significant care and support is provided by unpaid family carers; over 70% of PwD in Europe currently receive unpaid care.³ These informal carers can experience high levels of stress, depression, social isolation, and physical health problems.⁴

How will Actifcare identify best practice?

- 1) Actifcare will assess and compare health care systems giving access to formal home care across eight EU countries (Germany, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and the United Kingdom).
- 2) Actifcare will assess the access to and use of formal care services by PwD and their carers in these eight EU countries, and examine how this relates to their (un)met needs and quality of life.
- 3) Costs, consequences, and two novel specific outcome measures will also be evaluated.
- 4) The results of this research will enable Actifcare to identify best-practice pathways to formal care, in terms of efficiency and cost-effectiveness.



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1) Wimo, A. & Prince, M, (2010). World Alzheimer Report 2010 The Global Economic Impact of Dementia. Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI).
 2) WHO & ADI (2012). Dementia: A Public Health Priority, Geneva.
 3) Wimo, A. (2006). The worldwide direct costs and costs of informal care of dementia. 10th International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders. 2006 Madrid.
 4) Bobinac, A. et al., (2011). Health effects in significant others: separating family and care-giving effects. Medical Decision Making, 31(2), 292-298.

Actifcare Partners



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