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## Essential levels of care and mode of admission: a trial of cost-volume contracts

(Article)

### [LEA e riconversione dei ricoveri: sperimentazione di contratti per costo e volume.]

[Guardabasso, V.](#), [Spampinato, G.C.](#), [Guccio, C.](#), [Lupo, L.](#)

Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Policlinico di Catania.

#### Abstract

Within a research project funded by the Ministry of Health, the purpose of this work was to define the procedures of a contract for the provision of health services (hospital admissions), between the regional health administration (the "buyer") and the University teaching hospital (the "provider"), with the aim of improving efficiency. The contract concerned a few DRGs, among those identified as being "at risk of inappropriateness", in the national decree on "essential levels of care" (LEA). The contract defined production levels (number and percentage of admissions in day hospital), financing rules and methods for evaluation of results and improvement of performance within the hospital. This trial, even if run for a limited time and for demonstration purposes, showed that some results can be attained, provided some organizational adjustments are made.

#### Indexed keywords

**EMTREE medical terms:** article; economics; financial management; health service; hospital admission; hospital cost; hospitalization; human; Italy; university hospital

**MeSH:** Financing, Government; Health Services; Hospital Costs; Hospitalization; Hospitals, University; Humans; Italy; Patient Admission; Research Support

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Guardabasso, V.; email:[guardabasso@policlinico.unict.it](mailto:guardabasso@policlinico.unict.it)

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