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THE ANT MODEL OF ASSISTANCE

The Italian non-profit ANT Foundation is one of the main private organizations operating in Italy in the sector of home care services, palliative care and pain therapy for oncology patients.

The Foundation, which has its main office in Bologna, was established in 1978 www.ant.it.

The primary aim of ANT is to offer hospital-quality care at home to cancer patients during every stage of their illness absolutely free of charge, assisting the patient at home with proper medical care and provide the most complete assistance possible in terms of social welfare and health care, for the patient as well as for the family. Since 1985 ANT has assisted over 131,000 patients, absolutely free of charge, in the 20 Oncological Home Hospital (ODO-ANT) facilities located in 11 different regions of Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy, Veneto, Friuli V.G., Tuscany, Lazio, Marche, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata and Umbria). ANT offers specialized assistance carried out by 106 Physicians, 92 Nurses, 34 Psychologists, Nutritionists, Physiotherapists, Welfare and Health Care operators, who work for the Foundation, taking the necessary treatment to the home of the patients and providing all the care necessary, every day in the year, including holidays, within the limits of the available resources.

Every day, about 3,000 patients are assisted all over Italy; the average number of days of assistance for each patient is 118 days.

The coefficient of intensity of assistance (days in which an ANT operator goes to the patient's home/days in which the patient is under ANT's care) increases as the disease worsens, from an initial rate of 0.2 to a rate in the last month in excess of 0.5.

Home care services for oncology patients - both adults and children - consists of:

- medical treatment
- nursing
- psychological assistance
- basic personal care

and are provided in the following ways:

- medical treatment from Monday through Sunday, holidays included, 24 hours a day
- nursing from Monday through Sunday, holidays included
- psychological assistance from Monday through Friday, at the request of the patient and/or of the family

The ANT Foundation undertakes to:

- Participate in programming the plan of assistance defined by the hospital for the individual patient
- Make the first visit to take charge of the patient within 48-72 hours, with the patient's family doctor present

- Collaborate with the family doctor to organize the program of home health care that responds best to the patient's real needs
- Prepare a special home health care record and note all the services provided on a special digital support made available to the health service system
- Implement the therapy ordered by the patient's family doctor or by the hospital specialist assigned to the patient, on the basis of the procedures enacted in the hospital
- Perform the following medical-nursing-psychological services:

Medical services

Visits to control and assign adequate therapeutic treatment to care for the patient's symptoms

Urgent medical visits 24/7

Pain therapy

Transfusions of blood and blood derivatives

Management of intravenous therapy

Management of enteral and parenteral nutrition

Management of home oxygen therapy

Performance of electrocardiograms

Medical-nursing services

Taking blood and biological samples

Inserting, replacing and management of urinary catheters

Medication of nephrotomies and ureterocutaneostomies

Management and medication of peridural, peritoneal and pleural catheters

Management and medication of gastrostomies and colostomies

Management, medication and cleansing of central venous catheters

Management of elastomers for continuous infusion chemotherapy and pain therapy

Management of infusion pumps for the therapy of symptoms and total parenteral nutrition

Management of nasogastric tubes

Home nursing and education for management of aids and equipment for home use

Prevention and treatment of bedsores

Psychological services

- Individual plan of support designed for patients to facilitate the psychological management of the disease and accompany the patient during the period of treatment.

- Individual plan of support for the family with the aim of stimulating a more functional adaptation to the illness of their relative and to all the consequent changes in family life, including support elaborating the grieving process when necessary.

- Individual psychotherapy in order to stimulate a profound change with regard to the awareness, emotions and dysfunctional behavior of the patient, to facilitate a process of elaboration of past and present experiences. The technique employed may include forms of corporeal meditation

(Mindfulness, Autogenic Training, Guided Visualization, Jacobson's Progressive Relaxation) for the management of stress and anxiety.

- Psychological consultation and support for specific, limited problems concerning the patient and/or family members.
- Theme groups of psychological assistance (grief management, breast cancer patients, etc.)
- Treatment of patients in the pediatric age group, both in case of death of a parent or other figure of significant attachment, and in case of the child's own illness.
- Activities of reception, during which the organization takes charge of the patients and their families at the beginning of the assistance service.
- The psychologists are also involved in training activities for new volunteers (courses, supervision, etc.) and in activities of psycho-education and awareness in the schools (correct lifestyles, information about solidarity and volunteering, death education, etc.)

Look of life www.lookoflife.it

Improving the quality of the life of oncology patients and reducing the negative impacts that social and sensorial isolation can have on them is the goal of Look of Life.

The project has studied the clinical outcome and use at home of innovative Gear VR technology that enables oncology patients to make use of 360° videos for the management of anxiety, pain and occasions of distress and panic.

This year ANT will try to obtain even more detailed information about the benefits that Virtual Reality can give oncology patients undergoing treatment at home. Lenovo Mirage Solo visors will be used for the study. The visor will be left directly in the patients' possession so that they can use it at times of great psycho-physical discomfort. In addition to 360° videos, the visor will contain a richly endowed interactive game room specifically designed for ANT patients. With the visor, patients will also be equipped with an Empatica 4 bracelet, a device that is able to detect physiological variations associated with emotions and the experience of pain (such as increased cardiac frequency). The data obtained through the bracelet will provide even more detailed and objective information about the effects of the use of virtual reality at home.

VITAEVER www.vitaever.it

Vitaever® is a SaaS product (Software As A Service) based on Cloud technology that makes available innovative tools with which to organize activities of assistance and services provided by the operating personnel of the ANT Foundation. In particular, it offers functions such as a customized appointment record for every operator, a system of geo-localization and calculation of the best route (Google API), complete and updated management of clinical data with the signature and complete history of measurements, detection of presence, possibility to define plans of assistance on the basis of the list of available services, system for issuing social vouchers, internal message system, sharing of data relative to programming.