

Focus on Community Care: Home hospitalisation in Belgium

This flagship example from Belgium shows that both value-based health care and cost-efficiency can be achieved. It invites interested people to take learnings from this pilot and share it with local constituents. This initiative covers Flanders (5), Wallonia (5), and Brussels-Capital Region (2). MedTech Europe's Community Care group calls for better patient care and more attention to the community setting. For more information visit www.medtecheurope.org

Improving quality of care at home

In 2017, Health Minister Maggie de Block announced the launch of 12 pilot projects around home hospitalisation to test whether patients can receive care at home with the same guarantee of quality and safety as in a hospital.



The goal of the pilot is to bring the safety and quality of hospitals to the home. This enables patients to receive friends and family at home and reduces the risks of hospital-acquired infections.

This builds off the work done in 2013 which was similar in products and outcomes. Both projects run Antibiotherapy IV treatment at home, that is the intravenous administrations of antibiotics and cancer treatments. These pilot projects are ongoing and will end this year, after which an evaluation will take place to decide whether home hospitalisation can be upscaled at national level.

More information can be found on the websites of the policy cell of Minister De Block, the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance and the Federal Public Service Health.

What does this mean for the healthcare system?

(2013 PILOT PROJECT DATA)



In 2017, a Federal Government initiative was launched to ensure that patients, families and healthcare professionals can collect, analyse and exchange medical data using digital apps. Mhealth Belgium is thus the first project to create a framework for doctors to prescribe apps for chronic conditions management, post-acute care recovery, diabetes care, stroke care and cardiovascular disease. This initiative is publicly financed.

REFERENCES

1. Cornu and Servais (2019), https://www.uoad.be/fichiers_agenda/agenda-event_4142_fid_43-projet-had.pdf
2. Maggie de Block (2017), <https://www.deblock.belgium.be/fr/douze-projets-pilotes-sur-l%E2%80%99hospitalisation-%C3%A0-domicile-%C3%A9lectionn%C3%A9s>
3. The Bulletin (2016), <https://www.despecialist.eu/nl/nieuws/beroepsnieuws/oproep-maggie-de-block-projecten-thuishospitalisatie-update.html>

For more discussion, see the [Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment webpage on hospital reforms](#)

