

## HIPPOKRATES EXCHANGE IN SCANDIANO, ITALY



Our Hippokrates exchange in Scandiano it has been the best opportunity we would have ever had to know and learn about GP's Italian medical system.

In Italy, Familiar medicine is not considered an specialization but a kind of a master after studying medicine. It lasts 3 years and during this formation they have take it in turns in Hospital with the other specialists and take teaching sessions too one day a week. Health care in Italy is mainly financed by earmarked central and regional taxes.

Scandiano is a rural area in Emilia-Romagna region( Northern Italy). It has a population of 20.000.

During our exchange period (2 weeks) we rolled Doctor Lino Gambarelli and all his GPs colleagues from the Studio Medico Scandiano. They work in a nice building structure in the center of the town. Each GP has a quota of patients; maximum 1500. Italian GP can work individually or they can manage in groups of 3,4,6,7....GPs and create an structure called AMBULATORIO MEDICO. These "ambulatori" are privately administered by GPs.

Studio Medico Scandiano is composed by 7 doctors(GP), 2 nurses and 3 secretaries. Not all Italian GP surgeries have a practice nurse, this is because there was traditionally less need and not enough funds to allow one. GP work around 7-8 hours a day in their own consultation room although they visit patients at their homes.

The Studio medico offers not only a medical care but administrative tasks and nurses care too.

It is another structure called AUSL which plans, finances and controls the quality of specialist services provided to the citizens.

Primary care is provided by GPS, paediatricians and self-employed and independent physicians working alone under a government contract, who are paid a capitation fee based on the number of

people( adults or children) registered on their list. Although primary care physicians are given financial incentives to share clinic premises with their colleagues, they usually work in single practices. Studio Medico Scandiano is a new way of GP's organization work.

GPs are generally the first doctor that a patient sees and often the ones who provide the necessary treatment for most of the problems presented. They are also the doctors for palliative cares, elderly and chronic patients too.

The" ambulatorio" opens form 8.00 am- to 20.00 pm. GPs manage acute care and chronic care together with their ambulatorio's nurses. They succeed patient's expectations and they absolutely work respecting culture, religion, law and ethics.

GP spend a minimum of 15 minutes per patient.

Our experience has been the best rural train we would have ever had. We have rolled a experienced professional group of GP doctors in a excellent well-organized structure.

This experience overcame our expectations at all levels; academical, personal and professional.

We have learned almost everything about practice's particularities and Italian' s health care system.

We hope this experience will affect our way of working encouraging us as a professionals and improving our care quality.

Although we have spent a short time, it has been a great opportunity to understand multiple competences of a GP. We strongly recommend it to all trainees without any doubt.

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