Quaternary prevention

From Wonca world Hong Kong 1995 to Wonca world Prague 2013
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Quaternary prevention concept is spreading quickly worldwide
2008 Adopted by European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO)
2009 Workshop at Basel Wonca Europe congress
2010 Conference at Brazilia
2010 Conference at French Congress of GP/FM, Nice (fr)
2011 SIAP Seminar by Equipo Cesca at Barcelona (sp)
2012 Seminars at Buenos Aires, Mendosa & Rio de la Plata (ar)
2013 Seminars at Harvard (us), Lausanne (ch) & Paris (fr)
2013 Opening session of the annual congress of SBMFC, Belem (br) & APMGF, Covilha (po)
2013 Workshop at Prague Wonca world congress

Traditionally, clinical prevention is conceptualised as a medical activity before or after the occurrence of a condition. Primary prevention is used before any problem arises and encompass health education and promotion. The place of secondary prevention is unclear, sometimes used by cardiologists before or after the problem. Tertiary is not really in use and quaternary has been proposed for palliative care. In this view, the patient is the object of care along time line. The condition is central.

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Presented at Hong Kong Wonca world 1995, the 2x2 crosstab model, built on the patient doctor relationships, allows to define four fields of activities in GP/FM including also preventive activities along the time line.

In this model, built on the 2x2 crosstab model, prevention is presented as the result of the relationships between patient and doctor. The doctor is looking for disease while the patient will feel sick one day. The 2x2 crosstab model allows representing 4 fields of activities along the time line which includes traditional preventive ones. In this view, time line cross the two folds table. Working along the time line, called also prevention, is the broad and better of family doctor along the life of the patients and patients and doctors will meet at the end, suffering and dying together (point Ω).

The 3 definitions of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary prevention already published in 1995 in the Wonca glossary of GP/FM fit perfectly in the 2x2 crosstab model.

The definition of the missing field, the fourth one, called Quaternary Prevention, proposed at the Durham WICC meeting has been endorsed by the whole WICC group by standing ovation and edited in the Wonca dictionary of GP/FM in 2003

A quick growing P4 network
- WICC http://ph3c.org Quaternary prevention rubric
- Argentina http://prevencion-quaternaria@gruposyahoo.com.ar
- Belgium http://docpatient.net/mj/P4_citations.htm
- Brazil groups.google.com/forum/tgprevencionquaternaria/gtprevencionquaternaria@gmail.com
- Iran http://earthcitizenshealth.blogspot.com
- Spain SIAP2011@yahooogroups.com
- Uruguay www.facebook.com/pages/Prevención-Quaternaria/

Main citations
- Jamoulle M, Roland M. Quaternary prevention. WICC annual workshop Hong Kong: Wonca congress proceedings. 1995