

WHO ARE THE PORTUGUESE LONG-TERM CARE BENEFICIARIES? DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NURSING HOMES AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES POPULATIONS

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ABSTRACT

In order to address to the challenges arising by an ageing population, the Portuguese National Network for Long-term Integrated Care (NNLIC) was created in 2006. Regarding its structure, to respond to different patients' dependency levels, the NNLIC is organized in home and community-based services (HCBS) settings of care and four typologies of nursing homes (NH). The main goal is to explore, for the first time in Portugal, to what extent three NH typologies and HCBS populations differ from each other, trying to shed light in the criteria used for referral to each typology. This study concluded that there were differences regarding sociodemographic characteristics, main groups of pathologies and dependency levels at admission between the populations of all typologies of care. The logistic analysis found that a longer care responsiveness process, being married, being classified at the two lowest levels of cognitive independence and receiving care at Centre or Algarve region increases the probability to receive care in a NH setting of care. Finally, the ordered logistic regression to determine the main characteristics of the patients in each NH typologies concluded that, after adjusting to several variables, the number of patients correctly referred ranged from 9% to 89%. On the other hand, patients classified in a higher independence cognitive and ADL status at admission, increase the probability to be referred to the short-term care typology.

Keywords: Portuguese long-term care; Nursing Homes; Home and Community-Based Services; dependency levels.