

**IMPROVING QUALITY OF CARE IN  
PSYCHIATRY: THE WPA POSITION  
AND THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE**

**Mario Maj**

**The WPA supports the shift of psychiatric care from mental hospitals to community mental health services in order to improve patients' clinical outcomes, quality of life and satisfaction with services.**

**Deinstitutionalization is not an objective *per se*. It is a means to improve patients' clinical outcomes and quality of life.**

**Community care is not itself a treatment. It is a vehicle for delivery of treatments.**

**Community mental health care requires a continuing political commitment and adequate investments.**

**Investments should be made before, not after,  
the deinstitutionalization process begins.**

**A long-term monitoring of the process of the implementation of community mental health care is essential.**

**The quality of care delivered in the community  
has to be evaluated constantly.**



**Families of patients with severe mental illness  
should be adequately supported.**

**Physical health of people with severe mental illness living in the community should be protected and promoted.**

**Community mental health services are expected to deal with the whole range of mental disorders existing in their catchment area, not only with psychotic disorders.**

**Empathy and enthusiasm are important, but mental disorders are not treated by empathy and enthusiasm.**

**Continuity of care and monitoring of drop-outs are essential.**

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