

## Cultural Issues

### MAPPING PATIENT'S NETWORK

Establishing a support network for patients suffering from chronic diseases is both a necessity and a challenge at the same time. The extent of the development of the means of communication favors these actions.

The aim of these networks is to avoid therapeutic abandonment, with patients receiving support and counseling to increase and maintain increased adherence to treatment, first of all. Second, to receive psychological support (telephone, individual counseling meetings, support groups) and peer support (motivation interventions, telephone information)

In economically developed countries, access to these patient networks is easy.

The activities of multidisciplinary teams of patients' networks can be easily accessed, and the patient enters these networks when leaving hospitals but still needs specialized counseling, adherence to appropriate therapies and especially psychotherapeutic support.

#### Topics for Forum:

- Give examples of the illnesses of some patients (alcohol, drug addicts), who have been treated by supporting the patient's networks.
- To what extent the support networks are influenced by the culture, by the economic state of that state, by the development of its infrastructure?
- Does the Internet favor the operation of these networks?
- In your countries of origin, which is the share of the activity of these patient networks.