

Health Care Network Assessment in Perinatal and Adolescent Care. Evidence from two Argentine Provinces under the implementation of the Sumar Program

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Since 2012 the Argentine Ministry of Health is implementing the Sumar Program, an extension of the maternal-and-child Plan Nacer. The goals proposed by the program are to contribute to improve the morbidity and mortality indicators of the population without explicit health coverage and to strengthen the management capabilities of the ministries of health by implementing strategies funding for results. As part of this strategy, the program began to work with other institutional actors in strengthening and explanation of health care networks to improve the health and financial response from the public health sector to health situations requiring highly complex care .

In 2010 the Program designed and began the implementation of a strategy aimed to address some specific health needs associated to risk pregnancy, complex neonatal care and adolescent based health facilities. Within this framework, the project objectives are:

- Conduct a conceptualization of health care networks from an inter-disciplinary, both economic and social perspective, including the application of the concepts of economies of scale and scope for the health sector, and
- Evaluate the design, location and operation of economies of scale and / or scope, networks of health care for adolescents and obstetric care.

According to them, the following activities will be performed:

- Generate a conceptual approach that will address the operation of health care network from an inter-disciplinary perspective that includes the application of the concepts of economies of scale and scope for the health sector.
- Evaluate the design, location and operation of economies of scale and networks of health care for adolescents and emergency obstetric care under the SUMAR Program.
- Conduct a stakeholder analysis based on the implementation of health care networks for adolescents and emergency obstetric care, its design, operation and limitations.
- Analyze the performance based on the approach defined by the Plan Nacer, based to premises such as health promotion, integrity, confidentiality and rights-based approach, and its potential to enable effective health care for adolescents and perinatal care.