How to prevent illegal issues and corruption in the health system

R. Chersevani
Illegality and corruption must be rejected daily with the correct behavior of every person operating in the health system: from politicians to journalists, from researchers to patients.
Words for the health service:

• Health
• Integrity
• Sustainability
• Rights
• Risk
I fear mountains. But when I need to relate deeply to them I look for consciousness.

Reinhold Messner
Corruption

- Abuse of entrusted power for private gain
- Not only money
- Any private advantage that does not consider public interest
Corruption:

• Bribery
• Procurement corruption
• Improper marketing relations
• Misuse of (high) level positions
• Nepotism
• Undue reimbursement claims
• Fraud
• Absence from work
Corruption affects:

• Economy
• Health and appropriateness
• Patients’ safety
• Reputation
CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2014

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 175 countries/territories around the world.

www.transparency.org/cpi

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Italian Health System:

- Universal coverage, fair, global
- Increased survival in good health
- Chronicity
- Less complications
- Reduced hospitalization

- Reduced costs when compared to Europe
- Important economic crisis
- 110 billion Euro
Costs of illegal issues:

• 5 – 10% of healthcare spending  
  (www.ehfcn.org)

Indirect costs:

• Loss of trust
• Public image damage
• Stop to innovation
• Burden on vulnerable people
Possible risks in the health system:

- Asymmetric information
Possible risks in the health system:

• Asymmetric information

• Conflict of interest
CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
A situation that has the potential to undermine the impartiality of a person because of the possibility of a clash between the person’s self-interest and professional or public interest
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A situation in which someone cannot make a fair decision because it will be affected by the result.
Understanding Financial Conflicts of Interest

Dennis F. Thompson, Ph.D.
CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
A condition in which a health worker when making a judgement on a primary interest, such as health or research results, may be influenced by a secondary interest, such as money or personal advantages

A NATURAL CONDITION,
NOT NECESSARILY A BAD BEHAVIOR.
Conflict of interest:

- Real
- Possible
- Apparent

Consequences:

- Direct
- Indirect
• Reduce opportunities for corruption
• Increase capacity to discover corruption
• Create an environment unfavorable to corruption
• Adopt Corruption Prevention Plan
• Transparency
• Codes of conduct
• Personnel rotation (shift)
• No revolving doors (after retirement)
• Whistleblower protection
• Training
• Raise awareness among the people
Corruption risk management:
• Analysis of actions
• Definition of risk and illegality
• Evaluation of precautionary measures
• New precautionary measures
• New measures need to be put in practice
6 aprile 2016

GIORNATA NAZIONALE
CONTRO LA CORRUZIONE IN SANITÀ
What can a health professional do:

- Know code of conduct
- Adopt a corruption prevention plan
What can a health professional do:

- Know code of conduct
- Adopt a corruption prevention plan
- Ethics and value
FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE DEGLI ORDINI DEI MEDICI CHIRURGHI E DEGLI ODONTOIATRI

CODICE DI DEONTOLOGIA MEDICA

18 Maggio 2014
Art. 30
Conflitto di interessi
Il medico evita qualsiasi condizione di conflitto di interessi nella quale il comportamento professionale risulti subordinato a indebiti vantaggi economici o di altra natura.
Il medico dichiara le condizioni di conflitto di interessi riguardanti aspetti economici e di altra natura che possono manifestarsi nella ricerca scientifica, nella formazione e nell’aggiornamento professionale, nella prescrizione diagnostico-terapeutica, nella divulgazione scientifica, nei rapporti individuali e di gruppo con industrie, enti, organizzazioni e istituzioni, o con la Pubblica Amministrazione, attenendosi agli indirizzi applicativi allegati.

Art. 31
Accordi illeciti nella prescrizione
Al medico è vietata ogni forma di prescrizione concordata che possa procurare o procuri a se stesso o a terzi un illecito vantaggio economico o altre utilità.
European Charter of Medical Ethics

Principle 12
The physician acting as a simple practitioner towards a patient, or as an expert or member of an institution, must ensure the greatest transparency in what might appear to be a conflict of interest and act in full moral and technical independence.
What can a health professional do:

- Know code of conduct
- Corruption prevention plan
- Ethics and value
- Apply transparency on incomes
Farmindustria

- Code of Ethics
- EFPIA Code (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries)
- Transparent transfer of values, among pharmaceutical industries, health workers and health organizations
- Disclosure code
What can a health professional do:

• Know code of conduct
• Corruption prevention plan
• Ethics and value
• Apply transparency on incomes
• Condemn illegality, improve organization
Che cos’è la Giornata della legalità

Ventiquattro anni dopo Capacì resta vivo il ricordo ma anche l’urgenza di continuare la lotta
What can a health professional do:

• Know code of conduct
• Corruption prevention plan
• Ethics and value
• Apply transparency on incomes
• Condemn illegality, improve organization
• Teach integrity to younger members
I ragazzi di Falcone e Borsellino: 50 mila tra Palermo e le “piazze della legalità” per l’anniversario della strage di Capaci
What can a health professional do:

• Know code of conduct
• Corruption prevention plan
• Ethics and value
• Apply transparency on incomes
• Condemn illegality, improve organization
• Teach integrity to younger members
• Declare possible conflicts of interest
What can a health professional do:

• Know code of conduct
• Corruption prevention plan
• Ethics and value
• Apply transparency on incomes
• Condemn illegality, improve organization
• Teach integrity to younger members
• Declare possible conflicts of interest
• Consider appropriateness
What can a health professional do:

• Sustain independent research
Something is really new when it is better than what we had before.

Ezekiel J. Emanuel
What can a health professional do:

• Sustain independent research
• Control donations
What can a health professional do:

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• Apply on workplace well being
What can a health professional do:

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• Involve professional bodies, professional associations, society
• Vote for good politicians
What can a health professional do:

• Sustain independent research
• Control donations
• Apply on benessere delle organizzazioni
• Increase control
• Involve professional bodies, professional associations, society
• Vote for good politicians
• Use confiscated property, for good purposes
How Medical Care Is Being Corrupted

By PAMELA HARTZBAND and JEROME GROOPMAN  NOV. 18, 2014

• Rewards/punishments to influence doctor’s decisions
• “pay for performance”

• Reduce cholesterol levels (statins)
• Reduce blood pressure (falls)
Medical decisions should be made on the basis of what is best for the population as a whole?
Medical decisions should be made on the basis of what is best for the population as a whole

- Personalized medicine?
- Precision medicine?
• Paternalism \(\rightarrow\) balance of power
• Power belongs to insurers and regulators, that control payments \(\rightarrow\) less autonomy for patients and doctors
Medical care is not just another marketplace commodity.
TRASPARENZA
BENEFICI IN SANITÀ

Interventi di
Beatrice Lorenzin, Luca Pani
Federico Gelli, Luigi D’Ambrosio Lettieri
Francesco Merloni, Daniele Finocchiaro