

If smoking cessation it's too hard for our hospitalized patients, we must tell them

“I have an intervention that will make your treatment work better and increase your survival time, but I think that it will be too difficult for you, so let's not discuss it ..”

Bastian LA. Smoking cessation for hospital patient: an opportunity to increase the reach of effective smoking cessation programs. J Gen Intern Med 2008; 23: 1286-1287.

Does smoking cessation is still a problem in Italian hospitals

We carried out a telephone survey to analyze the Italian offer of smoking cessation services for in and outpatients. We called the 29 Lombardia Hospitals of the Health Promoting Hospitals network, contacting the desks to arrange a smoking cessation visit for a putative patient requiring help to quit. We also phoned the hospital pharmacies if they had NRT and/or other smoking cessation drugs and if a service for smoking cessation for hospitalized patients was available.

the 29 Hospitals of the Lombardia (Italy) HPH network

	YES	%	NO	%
anti smoking clinic	12	41	17	59
Smoking cessation inpatient service	1	3	28	97
Availability of NRT at Hospitals' Pharmacy	3	10	26	90

In the light of these results we do need a strong political commitment to smoker's care starting from HPH hospitals which should be in the vanguard of tobacco control efforts.

Only the alliance between victims of smoking addiction and health personnel can give a chance against the tobacco epidemic

