The Italian Law n°38 of March 15th 2010, has brought considerable simplifications regarding the prescribing and dispensing of medicinal products for the treatment of pain. The law regulates all matters concerning the medical treatment that the Italian state provides to citizens through the National Health Service. National networks are also in place for palliative care and pain therapy, which provide guidelines for implementing the Hospital Territory Without Pain project.

Since the beginning of 2011 the San Giovanni Bosco Hospital Pharmacy has used morphine bags at levels of 2% morphine per 100ml for the preparation of elastomeric infusion pumps for analgesic therapy in addition to vials used. The aim was to monitor how the consumption of morphine changed by comparing the quantities consumed in 2010 and 2011. This was performed using data from the controlled drug register.

In 2011, the quantity of morphine consumed increased by 4.5%.

35% of morphine destroyed was deemed outside of its validity period while 62% of elastomeric infusion pumps were returned to the pharmacy as faulty.

Despite the increase of morphine expired and the increase in morphine purchased there has been a reduction in spending of approximately 28%.

This analysis allowed us to verify that the use of morphine bags has led to a slight reduction in expenditure. It is also important to emphasize the easier fitting infuser by operators that leads to a saving of time in the execution.

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