

**A best practice model:
Implementation and evaluation of
a program coordinating primary
health care and specialized care**

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ESSOP 2007 Trieste

INTRODUCTION/ 1

➤ Program objectives:

- To increase paediatrician's abilities to discriminate child & adolescent mental disorders (CAMD)**
- To enhance paediatrician's capacities to manage CAMD in primary care services**
- To implement procedures for effective referrals to child mental health services (CMHS) (community, hospital)**
- To establish continuing education activities focusing on complex cases**

INTRODUCTION/ 2

➤ Program stages / activities:

- 1st stage (0-6 months): Identification and assessment of paediatrician's estimated needs; creation of a specific professional network; development of an on-line tool; monthly conference scheduled for paediatricians and consultant; creation of a database.**
- 2nd stage (6-12 months):**
 - Prioritization of CAMD identified in paediatric primary health care (PPHC)**
 - Theoretical and clinical discussion of prioritized cases**
 - Clinical screening of cases (2 categories):**
 - Cases to be followed in the PPHC together with on-line child psychiatrist consultant (CPC) supervision**
 - Cases to be referred to CPC / community child mental health services (CCMHS)**

Methods

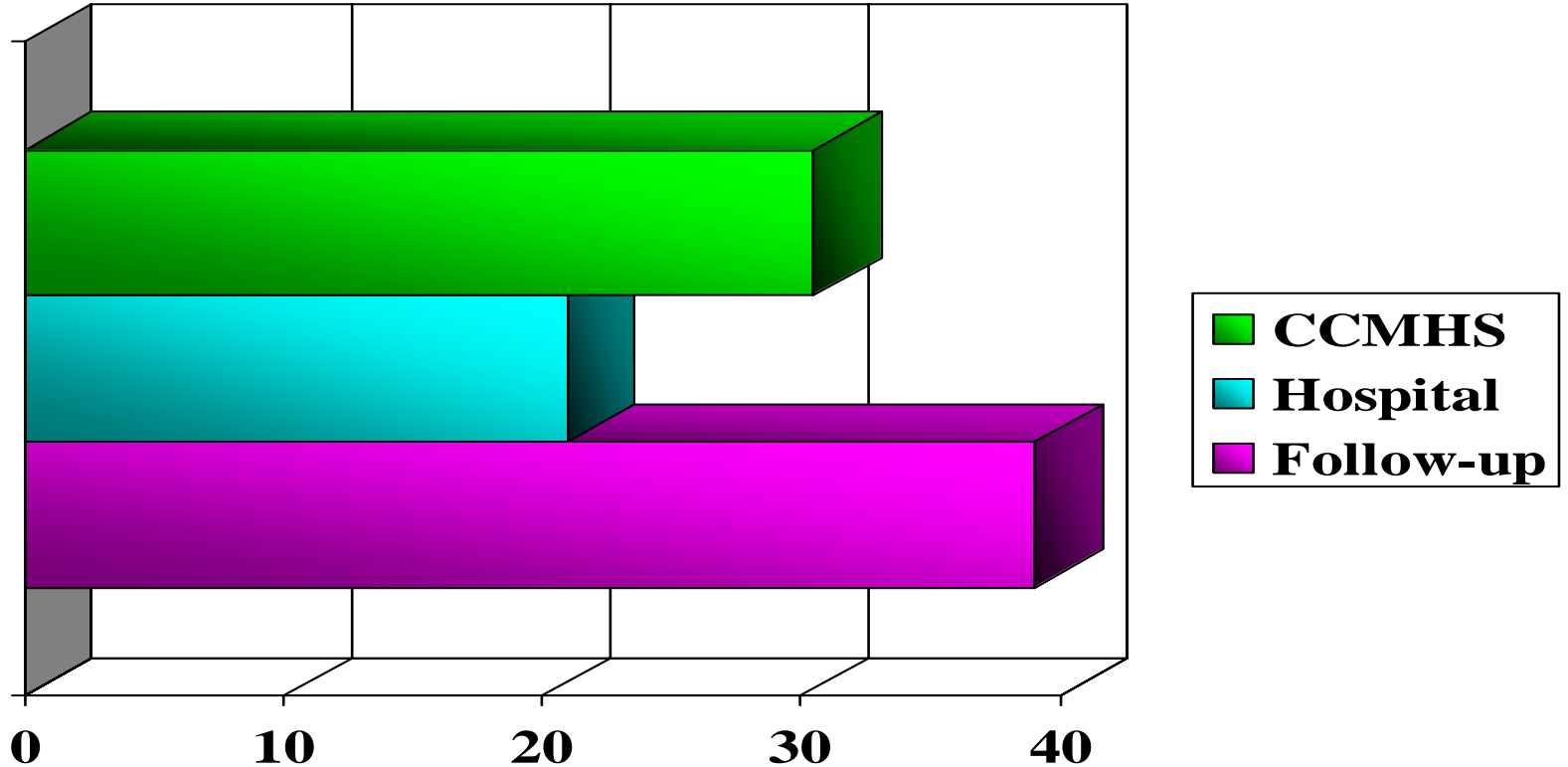
- **Quality tools: *PDCA* (to *Plan*/to *Do*/to *Check*/to *Act*) and Flow Diagram**
- **Quality measurement: Quantitative and qualitative outcomes (coordinated responses, liaison consultation systems, clinical / theoretical discussion issues**

Quantitative outcomes

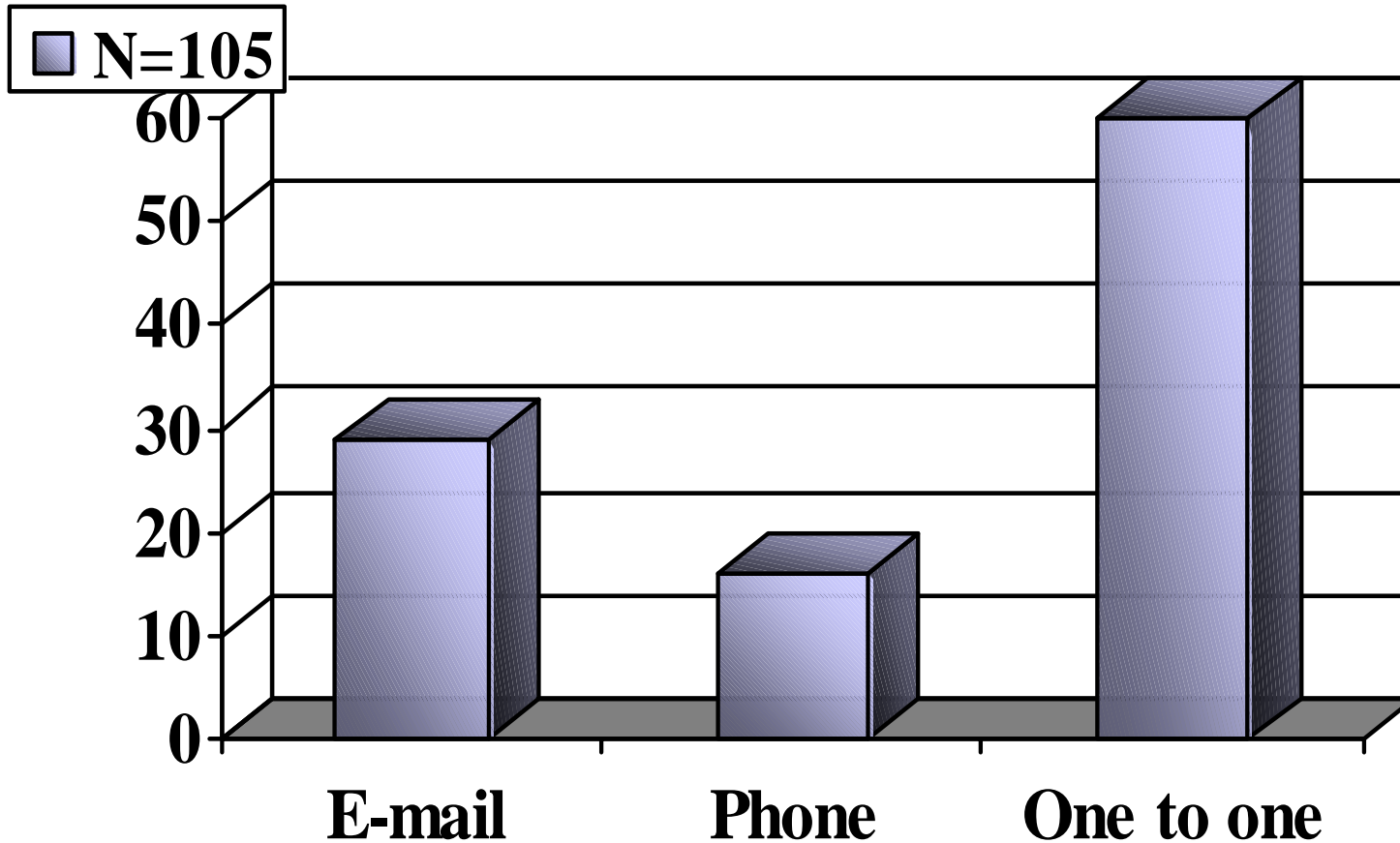
Data	3 months	9 months	12 months
Performed conferences / Programmed conferences	1	2	2
Number of cases presented for discussion (NCPD)	24	62	105
Participating Paediatricians/Total number of Paediatricians			0,78
Cases visited in PPHC / NCPD	0,25	0,339	0,39
Cases referred to CCMHS / NCPD	0,583	0,516	0,305
Cases referred to the Hospital Unit / NCPD	0,167	0,145	0,21

Liaison Consultation: Coordinated Responses

1 year follow-up



Liaison consultation: Systems



Clinical and theoretical discussion issues

Issues	Urban Areas	Suburban Areas
ADHD	X	X
Bereavement		X
Infant jealousy		X
Separation anxiety	X	
Sleep disorders	X	
Family profile variations	X	X

Comments

- **The evaluation of a program coordinating PPHC and CPC shows that a model based in the liaison consultation and continuing education activities is effective in terms of increasing the quality of pediatric care according to:**
 - **The increasing number of PPHC paediatricians who provide counseling for children with CAMD and the decreasing number referred to CCMHS**
- **The child psychiatrist consultant accessibility together with continuing education/discussions seem to be key issues for the above mentioned shift**
- **Results of the evaluation are consistent with good practices approach and also with the continuity of the program as no additional financing is needed**