Portuguese Primary Health Care (PHC) reform

Primary Care Facilities Visit
24/09/2017
The change process into the “new health centres” involved:

• Creating Family Health Units (USFs)
• Regrouping health centres into health centre groups (ACES)
• Introducing a new management model
• Establishing clinical governance
• Reorganising support services
RESTRICTURING AND ORGANISATIONAL MODELS

This change process took place both
- “from the bottom to the top”, with the involvement of health professionals through voluntary application processes for the establishment of autonomous healthcare providing teams - the USFs (Unidades de Saúde Familiar – Family Health Units) - and
- “from the top to the bottom” with the creation of Health Centre Groups (ACeS).
ACES (Health Centre Groups)

- These are public health services with administrative autonomy, decentralised from their corresponding regional health administrations albeit still under their direction.
- ACeS are made up of several functional units and it’s mission is to provide PHC to the population of a particular geographic area.
ACES (Health Centre Groups)
Primary Care Facilities Visit

Unidade Barão Nova Sintra

Unidade Covelo

Unidade Vale Formoso
Portuguese Primary Health Care reform

- **Health care functional** units of an ACeS
  - family health units (USFs),
  - personalised care units (UCSP),
  - public health units (USP),
  - shared resources units (URAP – which include social workers, psychologists, fisiotherapist) and
  - community care units (UCC)

- **Management** of an ACeS
  - UAG (management support units)
  - ACeS executive and clinical board
    - Executive Director
    - Clinical Board and
    - Community Council
Primary Care Facilities Visit
Unidade Covelo

- **Urgent care center** (open during the visits)
- **USF** (family health units)
- **UCSP** (personalised care units)
Primary Care Facilities Visit
Unidade Vale Formoso

Health Care
- USF (family health units)
- UCSP (personalised care units)
- UCC (community care units)
- URAP (shared resources units)
- USP (public health units)

Management
UAG (management support units)
ACeS Executive and Clinical Board (Executive Director, the Clinical Board and the Community Council)
Primary Care Facilities Visit
Unidade Vale Formoso

**UCCs** are practices comprising a team of nurses, but also social workers, physicians, psychologists, dieticians, physiotherapists and other professionals, according to the needs and availability of resources.

UCCs’ mission is to provide health care and home and community social and psychological support, particularly to the most vulnerable families and groups, those in a position of greater risk or dependency, as well as care to patients requiring close monitoring.

UCCs also play a role in health education and implementation of mobile health units.
Primary Care Facilities Visit
Unidade Barão Nova Sintra

- **USF** (family health units)
- **UCC** (community care units)
- **URAP** (shared resources units - physiotherapist gym)
Visit Groups

- **Group 1** (20) – Covelo + CASO
- **Group 1m** (5) – Covelo + Vale Formoso
- **Group 2** (20) – CASO + Barão Nova Sintra
- **Group 2m** (5) – Vale Formoso + Barão Nova Sintra
- **Group 3** (25) – Barão Nova Sintra + Vale Formoso
- **Group 4** (25) – Vale Formoso + Covelo

(limit of persons in each visit)
To learn More about Portugal PHC

