

Models of communication in the decision of entering an old age home

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The article is a qualitative empiric research about the decision of entering an old people's home. A group of elderly people, recently hospitalised, and their families were interviewed. Interview results provided us with interesting data to better understand the decision making process based on what we know from cognitive sciences. Research particularly highlighted scripts of recurrent communication that parallel the making of a decision, and that mutually and typically interact and affect the choices. At the beginning, a relationship disturbance appears, due to the fact that the reduction of self-independence of the elderly modifies typical solutions to structural problems of close relationships and threatens partners' self. The disturbance of relationships can bring to a "contractual script" or, alternatively, to a "competitive script" followed by a "collusive" one. In the second case, the decisional history is more exposed to dangers, because the decisional problem is framed in a way that rises the risk tendency, the cost of thinking is high, and the decision tends to stake the self, the need to deal with pressures, and win the enemies.

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