

REVIEW PAPER

Social Dimension and Work with the families of AIDS Patients and Carriers

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Abstract

The family constitutes a small social group. Each problem and each experience of one of its members touches the others in the group. Namely, there is a form of constant interaction among the members, which is intensified by internal and external factors. For situations that the family members classify as low in importance, temporary and controlled, their resolution process as well as any cost is manageable. Therefore, reactions are, most of the time, quite limited. What happens though with serious multi-factor impact situations, especially non reversible ones, such as illnesses? What is the reaction of the family members in cases of terminal illnesses, which are also related to the sensitive issue of a person's sexuality? Every professional in health, welfare and rehabilitation services will face these questions and situations in his direct or indirect involvement with the members of the patient's family, in his effort to properly accomplish his task.

Key Words: AIDS Patients, HIV Carriers, Families, Social Dimension