

The creation of the Healthcare National System (SAAD): origin, development and economic and social implications (Document 143/2009)

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Caring for people with dependence is a major social challenge of the developed economies. In Spain, at around 6% of the population needs assistance for daily activities. However, until 2006 Spain lacked a national system of care for the dependency, in contrast to other European countries. The traditional pattern of protection was the General Law on Social Security, in addition to other aid, designed and provided by regional governments (CC AA), which generated inequalities in coverage and access. Although little time has elapsed since the launch of Healthcare National System (SAAD), and there have been major policy developments and identify possible weak points of the first implementation. While development policy of the General Administration of the State is almost completed, the autonomous differences are observed in the time and content of standards, in addition, not all CC AA have completed the process. Some weaknesses in the implementation would be SAAD need to improve the system, the lack of flexibility of individual programs of care or lack of administrative staff necessary to manage the new system. In the medium term, other measures should be developed as the largest mobilization of the private sector in providing services or employment generation dedicated to the care of qualified people with a lack of personal autonomy.