



New and Emerging Risks and Diseases in Occupational Health

The Italian Signaal Chance

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MODERNET Meeting, Prague 20th-21st October 2016



Signaal



July 2013: Dutch and Belgian occupational specialists -and not only- had the opportunity to report suspicions about new relationships between health and work through the website www.signaal.info

- New online service
- To report possible new occupational diseases
- To be reviewed by at least 2 occupational specialists
- To gain a «final judgment»: probability of work-relatedness and newness
(through a structured investigation by a panel of experts)



ODs Reporting: Today in Italy



WHAT

- There is a **List** of reportable ODs published into a Minister of Labour Decree (last rev. 2009)
- The list consists of ODs with
 1. High probability (Sub-list n.1)
 2. Low probability (Sub-list n.2)
 3. It might be (Sub-list n.3)they are caused or made worse by work
- ❖ *There is also a **Table** of ODs with the “legal presumption of causality”*



ODs Reporting: Today in Italy



WHO

- Reporting is mandatory: **any doctor** (GP or specialist) has the duty to notify and report ODs
- Not reporting is a criminal offence and it results in prosecution (*even if only the diseases included into the “Table” will certainly receive a compensation*)



ODs Reporting: Today in Italy



HOW

- By different documents:
 - ✓ Medical Report
 - ✓ Charge (for statistical reasons)
 - ✓ Certification (for compensation)

By 48 hours from the diagnosis

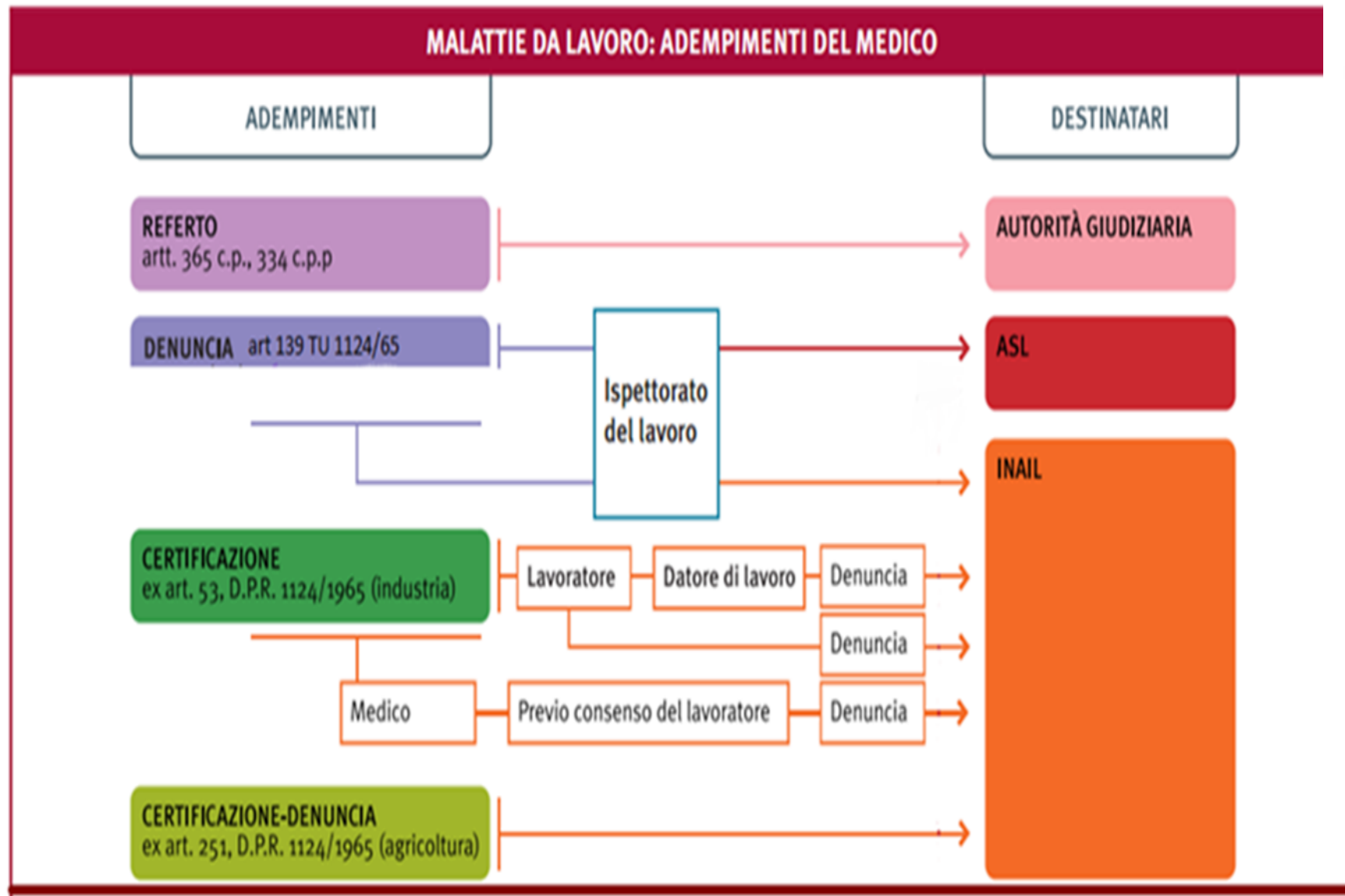


ODs Reporting: Today in Italy



TO WHOM

- Court system (Medical Report)
- Labour Inspectorates, Prevention units of the local health services (ASL) and The National Institute for the Insurance of Workplace Accidents and Occupational Diseases (INAIL) (Charge)
- INAIL (Certification)





ODs Reporting: Today in Italy



It is possible to miss some data

→ MALPROF System

- Collects data from the ASL and transmits them to INAIL
- That means the INAIL archives are supported by a second source of data on ODs (the MALPROF system, based on data from ASL)
- Integrating the two data flows (INAIL and ASL data) allows connecting diseases to occupations at the onset of the disease itself

It remains there are **no specific tools** to collect NEW ODs' reports



New OD



OD = disease X exposure X work setting

New OD = just one new element

- new association between disease and exposure (new symptoms -rare- or new exposures -uncommon-)
- known association between disease and exposure but in a new or not yet considered *at risk* for that disease work setting



New OD



In that case: could it be work-related?

- *if you are not an expert of that disease*
- *if it is not clearly concerning that exposure*

It might be difficult to evaluate the correct role of work activities in the onset of the illness → Signaal System



www.signaal.info/it The Italian Signaal Chance



The opportunity to initiate a multinational vigilance system on new ODs

We needed

- To create an Italian version of Signaal
- Directly available online
- To let physicians report, make questions and get answers on their suspicions on new possible occupational health risks also in Italy



www.signaal.info/it The Italian Signaal Chance



To do that we

- Translated the contents
- Implemented the ITs with a multidomain website
- Started to create a network, mailing Italian Modernet colleagues to let them register to Signaal and start reporting



www.signaal.info/it



Sistema di Segnalazione per le Nuove Malattie Professionali
la fase pilota della versione italiana



Pannello di controllo

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Polmone da popcorn

Bronchiolite obliterante contratta a seguito dell'esposizione alla sostanza chimica presente nell'aroma artificiale del burro, molto usato nella produzione di popcorn

Modulo di segnalazione Signaal

Attraverso questo modulo potrai inviarcì la tua segnalazione, riportando anche solo un tuo sospetto di una nuova combinazione tra malattia e lavoro.

[Registrati](#) al Signaal e crea il tuo nuovo account.



The Chance: Questions



- Is this disease work-related?
- Is this a new or emerging work-related disease?

Thought Signal 2 occupational specialists

- Carry out a structured literature search request with specific strings build for the *evidence based medicine* in Occupational Health
- Review the report using *Bradford Hill's Suggestions* for assessing causality
- Express their final judgement about the PROBABILITY of work-relatedness and newness of that report



The Chance: How to use it



You need

1. Diagnosis
2. To describe the job (duties, tasks, summary statement..)
3. To know the more relevant exposures

Then you will be able to

4. Register to the system
5. Log-in and submit your report
6. Wait *in any case* an answer



The Chance: Why



To close the *knowledge gap* about new and emerging ODs (*Marel, Malprof, Signaal, Modernet, etc*)

To enhance more effective **prevention**



The Future



The Italian Signaal - - - > MAREL project
(emerging diseases and risks at work)

Developed by INAIL and some Italian Hospitals and Universities
in order to connect several Occupational Health Practices



To find out the “*Sentinel Cases*” representative of new relations
risk/health damage
(also in Italy)



Thank you for your attention!