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12-3-2008

# Health Reform and its Impact on Workers in this Sector: the Case of the National Clinical Hospital in Cordoba, Argentina

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## Recommended Citation

Machado, A; M Giacone; C Alvarez; and P Carri. "Health Reform and its Impact on Workers in this Sector: the Case of the National Clinical Hospital in Cordoba, Argentina." (2008). [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/lasm\\_cucs\\_en/120](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/lasm_cucs_en/120)

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**DOCUMENT CUCS # 29B**

**RMS20072(4)Machado-Giacone-Álvarez-Carri**

**Machado A, Giacone M, Álvarez C, Carri P. La reforma de la salud y su impacto en los trabajadores del sector: el caso Hospital Nacional de Clínicas de Córdoba, Argentina. [Health Reform and its Impact on Workers in this Sector: the Case of the National Clinical Hospital in Cordoba, Argentina]. Revista Medicina Social (Montevideo, Uruguay) 2007 octubre; 2(4):173-182.**

**Objectives:** To analyze the changes produced after neo-liberal reforms in public services in Argentinean structure and organization of the work, as well as its effect on labor and social relations in the National Clinical Hospital.

**Methodology:** In depth interviews, questionnaires, and participant observation.

**Results:** The authors describe the way neo-liberal reforms introduced management mechanisms and processes of privatization into the public hospitals in Argentina, converting them into self-managed public hospitals. The authors indicate that the self-management in the hospitals has diverted into self-financing which provokes, among other things, the loss of free services. The authors indicate that only two percent of people who were attended for free before the reforms still received free services. Upon investigating the labor conditions, the economic situation, and the political participation of unions, the authors found that tension and distrust is on the rise among workers in self-managed workspaces. The authors denounce political “clientelism” and favoritism as common practices between health personnel, addressed to increasing salaries or rewarding personal favors. As far as the political participation of workers’ unions and their practices for resolving labor conflicts, silence predominates or no response is provided to the questions and actions of individuals.

**Conclusions:** The authors conclude that self-managed hospitals, backed by the neo-liberal reforms to the health systems, cause harmful effects to the workers at the National Clinical Hospital and this involves the systematic deterioration of what is public, privileging individualism and the market values.