

VENEZIA FEDERICA

The postnatal period in Piedmont in the past and in the present: experiences and narratives.

ABSTRACT

This thesis aims to illustrate the changes in postnatal care from the beginning of twentieth century to present day in Piedmont. For this analysis a general definition of puerperium and its characteristics was given, the historical period was studied and women and midwives were interviewed to analyze their personal experience about puerperium: narratives were collected outside hospital services and in the text false names will be used to ensure privacy.

Groups of women and midwives interviewed were chosen according to three different historical periods: the first half of the twentieth century, the '70s and the present. Through analysis of these interviews we can see many changes of postnatal care throughout history, with particular attention to the feelings of women who experienced puerperium as protagonists.