

Diabetes: a case study on strengthening health care for people with chronic diseases

Anne-Marie Felton European Coalition for Diabetes Vilnius, Lithuania 6 November 2014

Diabetes: the policy story so far

A considerable body of strategic evidence, good practice and many calls to action



Diabetes: social and economic sustainability



Inequalities in diabetes: key facts

- Socially excluded and vulnerable groups face a higher burden of diabetes and greater barriers to prevention and care. ⁽¹⁾
- The risk of developing diabetes is **2.5 higher** in the lowest socio-economic groups than the general population, and up to **6 x** more likely in black and minority ethnic groups. ⁽²⁾
- Burden of depression, pain and COPD approximately double amongst poorest people with diabetes vs the richest ⁽³⁾
- WHO: health literacy of people with diabetes a priority, ⁽⁴⁾ levels grossly inadequate across Europe, particularly amongst poorerst ⁽⁵⁾
- Disadvantaged groups have been shown to face barriers to quality and consistent preventative services and poor care due to low staff morale and low awareness of diabetes prevention ⁽⁶⁾

IDF Consensus:

Screening and prevention programmes in diabetes must be sensitive to the needs, cultural and religious norms of individuals and ensure their involvement in intervention design and delivery to achieve maximum success. ⁽⁷⁾

KEY INVESTMENT 1: diabetes prevention

Between 10-20% of us are living with pre-diabetic conditions... ^(1,2)



How we do it:

- **Target** intensive behavioural change at people at high risk (e.g. diet, exercise, weight loss)
- Integrate new educator roles into community care

KEY INVESTMENT 2: early diagnosis

Up to half of all cases of diabetes are undiagnosed. ^(1,2,3)



How we do it:

- Adopt easy-to-use screening tools in everyday practice
- 'Make every contact matter' across all services

KEY INVESTMENT 3: person-centred care

Complications of diabetes include heart disease, stroke, and damage to eyes, kidneys, and nerves. ^(1,2)



How we do it:

- Control associated risk factors (e.g. blood pressure, cholesterol and obesity) and prevent complications
- Identify and remove barriers to multi-disciplinary care

KEY INVESTMENT 4: support to self-manage

Experts recognise the limits of 'paternalistic' medical models in improving diabetes care. ^(1,2)

Only 50% of patients currently achieve satisfactory glucose control ⁽³⁾



How we do it:

- Provide education by trained professionals to all people with diabetes
- Adapt education to disadvantaged groups
- Ensure basic medical supplies for daily self-management

For all references see notes

Making it happen: 4 gaps

- NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
- RESEARCH & DATA
- INTEGRATED CARE
- EMPOWERMENT AND EQUAL ACCESS

Addressed in the *European Parliament resolution of 14 March 2012 on addressing the EU diabetes epidemic* (2011/2911(RSP))

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

We need:

- Adoption of diabetes and chronic disease as a major, pan-governmental priority for social and economic sustainability
- ✓ National strategies for the prevention, care and management of diabetes
- ✓ Funding for research, prevention, care and management of diabetes that reflects burden of ill health and enormous cost of failure

- X Economic case for diabetes care seemingly poorly understood by governments ^(1,2)
- X National diabetes strategies rare, and those that exist often poorly implemented ⁽¹⁾
- X Diabetes a low priority for funding relative to other diseases $^{(3)}$

RESEARCH AND DATA

We need:

- \checkmark National registries and standardised data across and between countries ⁽¹⁾
- Monitoring and incentives systems based on consistent and accurate diabetes indicators (both processes and outcomes), with indicators endorsed by patients ⁽¹⁾
- ✓ Better information on cost effectiveness at the national and regional level

- X Little understanding of true costs of diabetes, both direct and indirect ⁽²⁾
- X Process-driven reimbursement and poor financial accountability the norm ⁽²⁾
- X National diabetes registries in only half of all European counties, but those that exist often incomplete ⁽²⁾
- X No European clearing house for diabetes data

INTEGRATED PREVENTION & CARE

We need:

- Clinical guidelines for comprehensive management of diabetic co-morbidities alongside glucose control, protocols for joint working / information sharing
- National programmes to mainstream cost-effective and proven models of diabetes prevention, diagnosis and care into the community ⁽¹⁾
- Expansion of community nurse and educator roles, health checks and diabetes screening ⁽¹⁾

- X Most GPS single handed, shortage of nurse and educator roles
- X Disappointing progress in delivering comprehensive care models ⁽²⁾ and even basic care ⁽³⁾
- X Delay to diagnosis still as long as 7 years ⁽⁴⁾
- X Existing societal efforts to prevent chronic disease grossly insufficient ⁽⁵⁾

EMPOWERMENT & EQUALITY

We need:

- ✓ Patient therapeutic education for self-management and care planning
- \checkmark Citizen involvement in care
- ✓ Better understanding of barriers and outreach for excluded groups
- ✓ Urgent investment in health literacy approaches
- \checkmark Fair access to care and basic supplies for all

- X Limits in access to even the most basic care persist across Europe $^{(1,2)}$
- X Products on the market vary by country, even in EU, as dictated by varying clinical and cost containment criteria, and even supply issues ⁽¹⁾
- X Price control regulation key but yet to be extended to all Europe/all diabetes products ⁽¹⁾
- X Health literacy a major barrier, especially in deprived groups

Conclusion

WE HAVE

- the evidence
- the proven models for implementation

WE NEED

- national strategies and effective leadership on diabetes and chronic disease
- better data, better accountability for outcomes
- new community-based prevention, care and management in diabetes
- to reach out to disadvantaged groups where the greatest burden of ill health lies

WE NEED TO ACT NOW



Thank you

Anne-Marie Felton

European Coalition for Diabetes Vilnius, Lithuania 6 November 2014 The Joint Action on Chronic Diseases and promoting healthy ageing across the life cycle (JA-CHRODIS)*

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