



Establishment of indicators monitoring diabetes mellitus and its morbidity

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SUMMARY

The objective of this project is to provide a set of indicators with a definition of the underlying data collection to monitor diabetes mellitus and its outcome in the Member States/EFTA on a routine, consistent and uniform basis.

Diabetes mellitus and its complications have become a major public health problem in all countries. It causes significant physical and psychological morbidity, disability and premature mortality among those affected and imposes a heavy financial burden on health services. The prevalence of diabetes is rising globally, and the number affected is expected to double by 2010. The prevalence and complications can be reduced through early and appropriate intervention. Within Europe, important differences between potential risk factors (lifestyle, environmental factors, genetic predisposition etc) exist.

The EUPHIN-HIEMS database aims at the establishment of Community health indicators, offering the possibility to monitor health in various aspects, among which the occurrence and consequences of diabetes mellitus.

Although diabetes has been identified as one of the leading and growing contributors to the global disease burden, so far no relevant and reliable indicators are available, based on comparable data collection, throughout the EU to monitor diabetes and its outcome.

An inventory of available indicators and data sources in the different EU/EFTA countries has been established. Focussing on different aspects of diabetes mellitus requiring surveillance, further potential indicators and alternative data collection have been added to the inventory. From this list a set of indicators has been selected, based on relevance, validity, sensitivity, reproducibility and responsiveness. Data source/data collection is described. A pilot study has been done to evaluate feasibility and to provide an initial data set in the different EU countries. Finally, a set of core and secondary indicators are proposed to monitor diabetes and its sequel in EU/EFTA countries.

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