

REPORT FROM TURKEY

41st EQuIP Assembly Meeting, Stockholm-Sweden, 12 – 14 April 2012

“Use of nationally or regionally aggregated data in the local improvement processes of the practices”

★ **Status of Electronic Health Records** ★

★ **Tuberculosis Follow-up System** ★

★ **War Against Smoking Continues: New Anti Tobacco Legislations** ★

★ **Obesity Control Activities** ★

★ **> 100 % Success Rates in Childhood Vaccination** ★

★ **Home Care Services** ★

- **The Status of Electronic Health Records in Turkey**



After implementing the family medicine system nationwide, all the family practices are now using electronic health records (EHR) connected to a central server. Effort continues to integrate the EHR with hospitals and pharmacies.

The system enables family physicians to access patient information from any computer connected to the Internet. All the information entered by the GP is ready to download for clinical as well as research purposes. The physician can filter his/her patients according to disease status or any other search criteria such as contraceptive usage.

Given that the GP feeds the relevant data, most software used also supports decision-making. For example, one can easily catch a case of growth

hormone deficiency and take action with the help of the EHR.

All the patient processes including registering, prescriptions, and laboratory procedures are managed using the unique identifier numbers or barcode readers.

There are currently around 20 EHR software in the market with accreditation from Ministry of Health, 10 out of these being more popular among family physicians. Some programs also support web-based services such as taking appointments and mobile applications.

- **Tuberculosis Follow-up System**



Still being a big health threat worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) receives attention from Turkish authorities. Current country-wide family medicine

implementation system allows close follow up of TB patients by the family physicians.

After showing that the patient has no active TB by sputum examination, patients are discharged from chest disease clinics. Each patient is followed up by his/her family physician. Family physicians provide coordination and continuity of care from the perspective of person centered approach.

Patient adherence to given pharmacotherapy is an important issue in the management of TB. The treatment process is long and often ends up with exhaustion. Thus, majority of patients discontinue therapy if there is no strong control system or incentives. The system is claimed to have many advantages from economic savings to patient adherence and improved quality of care.

- **War Against Smoking Continues: New Anti Tobacco Legislations**



<http://www.havanikoru.org.tr/>

Although there is a trend to decline, prevalence of tobacco usage was 31.2% according to a study in 2008¹. Although Turkey now ranks fourth in in quitting rates according to the WHO report, there is still a long way to go. With the support of all political groups in the national assembly, legislations with strong precautions have been established prohibiting the advertisement of tobacco products and smoking in public places. Additionally, medications such as bupropion and varenicline are covered by the social security organization.

According to Prof. Recep Akdağ, the minister of health, new regulations are on the way making it even more difficult to access and use tobacco. According to a press release, the new regulations will prohibit using tobacco brands for even other

¹ Bilir N. Dünya'da ve Türkiye'de Tütün Kullanımı Epidemiyolojisi http://www.ssuk.org.tr/eski_site_verileri/elazig_kongre_sunumlar/nazmi_bilir.pdf

purposes and also the size and type of warnings on the packages will be changed².

There are also web-based support activities to help tobacco addicts such as the Inonu University: <http://iys.inonu.edu.tr/?web=koruyucuhekimlik&w=7719&dil=tr>.

- **Obesity Control Activities**



<http://www.beslenme.saglik.gov.tr/>

Obesity prevalence among adult males and females was found as 21.2% and 41.5% respectively. Due to the increasing burden and epidemics of obesity, the Ministry of Health established a "Department of Nutrition and Physical Activity".

The Ministry of Health requests family physicians to record relevant information in order to deal with the obesity epidemics. Family physicians find it important to be involved in the action plan in fighting against obesity.

- **> 100 % Success Rates in Childhood Vaccination**

T.C. SAĞLIK BAKANLIĞI 2011 ÇOCUKLUK DÖNEMİ AŞI TAKVİMİ¹

	DOĞUMDA	1. AYIN SONU	2. AYIN SONU	4. AYIN SONU	6. AYIN SONU	12. AY	18 - 24 AY	İLK ÖĞRETİM 1. SINIF	İLK ÖĞRETİM 6. SINIF
Hep B	I	II			III				
BCG			I						
DaBT-İPA-Hib			I	II	III		Rapel		
KKK						I		Rapel	
OPA					✓		✓		
Td									✓
DaBT-İPA								✓	
KPA			I	II	III	Rapel			

* Hep B: Hepatit B Aşısı • BCG: Verem Aşısı • DaBT-İPA-Hib: Difteri, Aşeliüler Boğmaca, Tetanoz, İnaktif Polio, Hemofilus İnfluenza Tip B Aşısı • KKK: Kızamık, Kızamıklık, Kabakulak Aşısı • OPA: Oral Polio Aşısı • Td: Erilgin Tipi Difteri, Tetanoz Aşısı • DaBT-İPA: Difteri, Aşeliüler Boğmaca, Tetanoz, İnaktif Polio • KPA: Konjuge Pnömonik Aşısı • Rapel: Paketlenmiş Dözümler

Referans: 1) T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı Temel Sağlık Hizmetleri Genel Müdürlüğü, Çocukluk Dönemi Aşı Takvimi Okul Açılmadan Önce, 11.10.2010 tarihli, B1007SH0110005 no'lu Genelgesi.

Immunization services in Turkey are mainly provided by family physicians. With the recent campaigns also children who couldn't immunized before are included. Hence, immunization rates exceed the 100% target in some areas.

Hepatitis B is in the immunization schedule since 1998. In 2005 the schedule contained 7 antigens, namely diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, oral polio, BCG, measles, and hepatitis B. Hemophylus influenza type B was added in 2006 followed by changing the diphtheria, measles, and tetanus with a more developed vaccine and adding conjugated pneumococcal vaccine in 2008.

There is also another campaign to combat influenza and pneumonia among patients with diabetes. Objectives are declared as immunization rates of 75% and 50% for influenza and pneumonia respectively.

- **Home Care Services**

According to the Ministry of Health figures, around 100 thousand patients are living bedridden in Turkey³. In order to cover the needs of home care dependent patients the Ministry of Health implemented a nationwide project with the inclusion of family physicians.

Patients and relative now can access the home care services coordination center by dialing 444 38 33 from all over Turkey to get services from basic examinations and renewal of health reports up to intravenous fluid therapies.

* This report was prepared with the contributions of the EQuIP Turkey Discussion Group: Aclan Ozder, Ayşen Akin, Bengü Pala, Çağatay Savaşhan, Cemil Işık Sönmez, Coşkun Öztekin, Eda Yağcı, Ertuğrul Çeşmeli, Fatih Yüksel, Furkan Dağcıoğlu, Hakan Demirci, Karanfil Sıtmapınar, M. Erol Yayla, Muhammed Erdal, Mustafa Ünal, Nezih Dağdeviren (EQuIP Delegate), Zekeriya Aktürk (EQuIP Delegate), and Zeliha Cansever.

² Sigara ile mücadelede yeni eylem planı. Radikal News.
<http://www.radikal.com.tr/Radikal.aspx?aType=RadikalDetayV3&ArticleID=1076098&CategoryID=77>

³ Orhan Koç Tedavi Hizmetleri Genel Müdür Yardımcısı
<http://www.zaman.com.tr/haber.do?haberno=1033966&title=saglik-bakanligi-evde-bakim-hizmetini-genisletiyor>

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