

REPORT FROM TURKEY

39th EQuIP Assembly Meeting, Copenhagen, 06 – 07 April 2011

- ★ Turkish Delegates Conducting Quality Courses ★
- ★ Nationwide List-Based Family Practice Since January 2011 ★
- ★ Regulations for Prescriptions Updated: Still Restrictions for GPs ★
- ★ Full-time Service now Obligatory ★
- ★ Study on Current Opinions of Family Physicians ★
- ★ Upcoming Scientific Events ★

- **Turkish Delegates are Conducting Quality Courses in an Effort to Spread Quality Concept Among Family Physicians**

In accordance to EQuIP's mission to spread quality in the member countries, Turkish delegates took the initiative to conduct quality-related courses and workshops during national events. Two courses were conducted in March and April 2010 with the title "Use of Quality Tools in Family Practice" during the First Trakya Family Medicine Conference and the Fifth Istanbul Family Medicine Conferences respectively. A third course will be conducted during the 10th National Family Medicine Conference in May 2011 with the title "Quality in Family Practice". Subtopics of the course are as follows:

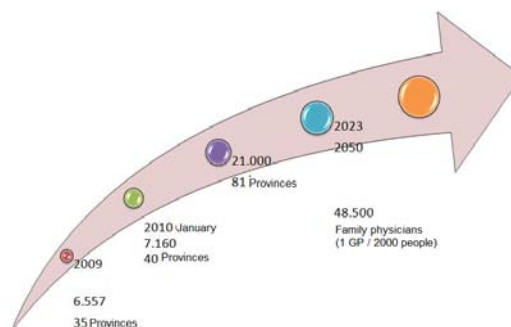
- What is quality?
- ISO and JCI
- Audit
- Quality Circles
- Patient and employee satisfaction
- QALY, DALY, cost effectiveness, cost efficiency
- Processes, procedures, flowcharts
- Quality indicators

In case of enough funding, the delegates are planning to make the courses an EQuIP activity with contributions from abroad.

- **Health Transition Project Reached an important Goal: Nationwide List-Based Family Practice Available Since January 2011**

As mentioned in our earlier reports, one of the main objectives during the Health Transition Project in Turkey was to convert from a geographically based primary care health system to a list-based system together with a change in the payment system. As to 13th of December, 2010 this goal seems to be accomplished. Citizens in all 81 provinces have now a dedicated family physician.

As to the [current figures](#), 20 183 family physicians (out of them about 95% non-specialists) are serving a population of 72 560 510 people (3595 people per GP) in 6 330 family health centers and 986 Population Health Centers. The Ministry of Health intends to have 1 GP per 2000 citizens by the year [2023](#).



- Turkish Social Security Institution Updated Regulations for Prescriptions: Family Physicians have Still Restrictions such as Prescribing Insulin and Statins**

In an effort to minimize the health costs, the Social Security Institution (SSI) of Turkey (www.sgk.gov.tr) is periodically issuing regulations regarding prescriptions. Family physicians were not happy with the previous state due to some limitations for GPs. As to the last regulation dating [06.01.2011](#), there are still restrictions for family physicians. Some of the items not paid by the SSI in case of prescription by the family physician are as follows:

- Biphosphonates and calcitonine
- Formeterol, salmeterol and their combinations with steroids
- Pregabaline and zonisamide
- Niacine and Gemfibrosyl
- Amantadine
- Analogue insulins, Pioglitasonone
- DPP-4 antagonists (Sitagliptine, vildagliptine)
- Finasteride, dutasteride
- Parenteral iron hydroxide
- H. pylori eradication package
- Pramipexol hydrochloride and Ropinirol
- Methylphenidate

Family physicians are especially disappointed due to the restrictions in insulin and cholesterol lowering medications.

- Ministry of Health Succeeded in Obliging Turkish Doctors for Full-time Work**

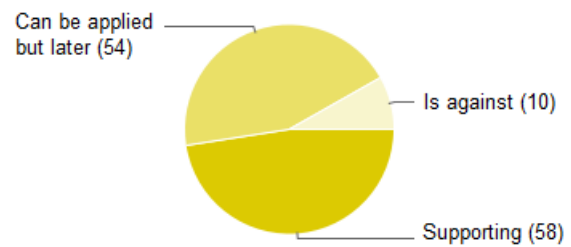
According to the previous regulations, physicians working in the public sector could choose to work

on a part time basis. Besides being the only profession in the public sector having this privilege, the shortage of doctors was claimed to be a necessity to shift to full-time work for doctors. As to 1st of March, 2011 doctors working in the public sector are obliged to work on a full-time basis. Although many physicians running a private office had already decided to shift to the public sector due to other financial influences, some high ranking professors especially in the university hospitals are not happy with the new regulation.

- Turkish EQuIP Delegates Conducted the Third Study Evaluating Current Opinions of Family Physicians**

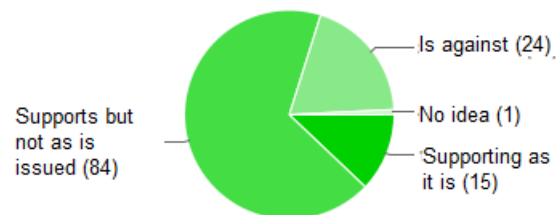
Started in 2008, Turkish EQuIP delegates are conducting [yearly surveys](#) to collect opinions of Turkish family physicians about issues under discussion. [Last report](#) in this series was published in March 2011.

One of the discussions is about the gate keeping function of family physicians. Currently it is not applied in Turkey but discussed to be implemented.



Opinions about gatekeeping function of GPs

Another hot topic in the agenda of family physicians is the paw on full time service. Most of the GPs seem to be supporting full time service in government facilities.



Opinions about full time service in government facilities

- **Upcoming National Scientific Events for Family Physicians in Turkey**

[6th Istanbul Family Medicine Conference](#) will be conducted during 28-30 April 2011 in Swiss Hotel The Bosphorus.



[10th National Family Medicine Conference](#) will be conducted during 18-22 May 2011 in Lykia World, Fethiye



[The Second Conference of the Federation of Unspecialized Family Physicians](#) will be conducted during 28 September and 2 October 2011 in Cyprus Acapulco Hotel



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