



**International
Diabetes Federation
Europe**



**Eucomed
MedTech Forum**



***Sustaining healthcare systems in Europe – an
IDF Europe perspective***

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IDF Europe

- IDF Europe is an umbrella organisation of 65 national diabetes associations in 47 countries across Europe. We are a diverse and inclusive multi cultural network, representing both patients and HCPs
- Our **mission** is to promote diabetes prevention, care and cure worldwide
- **Diabetes and Sustainability HC systems:** the cost burden of diabetes in the EU is significant and growing: in most EU Member States diabetes is responsible for over 10% of HC expenditure and in some cases the figure is as high as 18.5%
- Supporting the long-term sustainability and efficiency of health and social care systems
- **Diabetes & Active and healthy ageing:** The growing obesity epidemic and an increased ageing population confirm the trajectory that diabetes prevalence rates in Europe will continue to rise

some preliminary comments

- Integrated care – multi disciplinary holistic approach to patients health
- Chronic disease management
- Innovative medical devices – we cannot forget the human factor
- Development of new models for funding, reimbursement services and regulation framework
- People living with diabetes should have timely access to medication, supplies and medical devices that can improve their immediate quality of life and that may decrease the likelihood of future interventions which are often more costly and less effective.
- There is great variation as to the medication, supplies and medical devices available to people living with diabetes across the EU – the variations are much greater across Europe as a whole.

What are the key needs of people living with diabetes?

Considering that the treatment is life long, the main concerns are as follows:

- Availability of the products at affordable prices (fully or partially supported by the health insurance systems)
- Availability of education and support to properly use the device (ex. Manuals with the nutrition contents of different foods in national language and adapted to local products)
- Constance in the results of different machines or consumables from the same producer (meters)
- Quality of the products (no or little pain, reduced number of application/adjustments, predictable behaviour, easy and clear reading/indications)
- Reliability of the products
- Security /safety of the device or procedure

Needs - continued

- **Non intrusive (and affordable) methods of diagnostics / monitoring** (urine tests are no longer on the market – and they proved to be very good help for persons with type 2, blood testing is still a very intrusive method)
- **Access to new technology at a moderate cost** - i.e. spreading the use of already available technology via reimbursement systems that allow people to access these devices. There are several excellent technology solutions (pumps, glucose testing machines, etc) that are not equally available throughout Europe.
- The ultimate wish of people treated with insulin is to have an **artificial pancreas** or to have a solution that will involve **less intervention** from outside. The main elements are already on the market (the insulin pump and the CGMS). Both of them still need improvements in the functions and consumables (lines/catheters, sensors – both these need solutions to increase the period of safe use and eventually decrease the costs of the consumables).

What are the key barriers?

- Overall, the key barriers seem to be financial
- Lack of education of both medical professionals and users
- The inability of healthcare systems to handle chronic diseases
- Insufficient sharing of information between industry and patient organisations
- Lack of commonly agreed quality standards for products for life long utilisation
- Definition of responsible parties (producer, user, support system responsible for improper results?)
- Lack of agreement on a common system of measuring glycaemia and HbA1c and to incorporate those systems in all the European meters
- Security concerns (a growing number of medical devices are connected to communication systems so that doctors and other professionals can be involved in a patient's care from a distance).

Examples of overcoming barriers

- In Scandinavia there are “Diabetes Centres” (dating back 50 years in Finland) that offer holistic training (ranging from diet and exercise, to the newest treatment modalities like artificial insulin pumps) for people with diabetes, doctors and nurses.
- In the last 15 years, there has also been the emergence of “pump schools”.
- Across Finland, all University Hospitals have schools for doctors and nurses on different diabetes issues, and more recently about new technology and new treatment options that have emerged. Twice a year there is an evening session for all those people who are on insulin pump treatment in the University Hospital area where they live. Parents of a child with diabetes or those who are interested in insulin pump treatment can also attend.
- Finnish Parliament Diabetes Working Team, is composed of committed MPs who strive to keep Diabetes Issues high on the political agenda.

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- Portugal: 100 insulin pumps are bought by the Government and offered free of charge to those who are eligible to receive it.
 - Diabetes UK Medical Elective scheme enables undergraduate medical students to gain experience and training in research into diabetes during the elective period of their studies.
 - Diadvisor, diabetes register, etc

Patients' expectations from the MedTech industry:

- **Quality & affordable products** across Europe
- **Tailored solutions** for different interest groups (ex. Meters with large displays or with audio reading of the results for persons with impaired vision, meters for younger children to encourage a proper behaviour, reminder systems for parents of care takers regarding the need for monitoring tests and recommended interventions after the tests – adjusted to the type of client, reliable delivering systems for very small quantities of insulin for infants)
- **Cheaper consumables** for pumps and CGMS's
- Catheters and sensors with **longer life**
- The first **artificial pancreas** within the next decade
- Support to properly manage **multi-morbidity** and **polypharmacy** related issues

Thank you for your attention!