Public Health and Primary Care: a European perspective

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NIVEL

- Independent not-for-profit research foundation
- Financing: annual turnover 14 m€
  - 35% Ministry of Health
  - 65% projects
- Double mission: scientific and societal
  - Universities
  - Stakeholders in health care
- WHO Collaborating Centre
Why should Public Health and Primary Care meet?

• Decreasing returns on investments in health care
• Changing disease patterns
  - increased prevalence of chronic diseases and multimorbidity
  - increase of lifestyle related risks
• Changing insights in effective prevention strategies
  - target groups
  - risk communication
  - trust in experts
  - multifactorial interventions
Why should Public Health and Primary Care meet?

“People want to live in communities and environments which secure and promote their health”
## Profiles of Public Health and Primary Care

**Public Health**
- Population
- Health threats
- Health promotion
- ‘Pro-active’

**Primary Care**
- Individual patients
- Diseases
- Curative care
- ‘On demand’
Meeting points of Public Health and Primary Care

- Prevention
- Information: health status and health threats
- Community approach
Prevention: who is responsible?

Universal prevention

Selective prevention

Indicated prevention

Municipal/regional public health organisations

? Curative health services
Prevention: an example

Degree of involvement of primary care in prevention:

- Immunization for tetanus
- Allergy desensibilisation
- Testing for STD’s
- Screening for HIV/AIDS
- Influenza vaccination for high-risk groups
- Cervical cancer screening
- Breast cancer screening
- Cholesterol level checking

Kringos et al, 2012
Involvement of Primary Care in prevention

Kringos et al, 2012
Prevention: coverage influenza vaccination

Loerbroks et al, 2012
Prevention

Involvement of primary care in prevention is positively related to influenza vaccination coverage rates. Why?

- Close to the patient’s living environment
- Personal and longstanding doctor-patient relationship
- Knowledge of medical history
Information on health status and health threats

• Information from medical records of primary care professionals
  – Surveillance (infectious diseases)
  – Monitoring (chronic diseases)

• Health surveys by public health agencies
  – Input for planning of primary care services
Situation observée pour Diarrhée aiguë
semaine 32 - 2012 (nombre de cas pour 100 000 habitants)
Influenza activity week 7 - 2012
Monitoring of chronic diseases

The prevalence of known diabetes in eight European countries

<table>
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<th>Country</th>
<th>Network</th>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>(year)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>35.2</td>
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</table>
Sharing information: an example

*Rotterdam (The Netherlands)*

- Municipal public health service
  - Health survey of the population
  - Tailored health and risk profiles per primary care practice (based on N=495)
- Primary care practices (N=17)
  - Information on provided services
- Meetings to discuss the correspondence between care needs and service profiles

Meuwissen et al, 2010
Information on health status and health threats

Information from primary care is useful for public health and vice versa!
Community approach

Focus on well defined population/area is a common characteristic of primary care and public health → opportunities for cooperation?!
Registration with General Practitioner ("List system")

- None
- Incentive
- Obligatory

Reibling & Wendt, 2012
How to fill the gap between public health and primary care?

- Adequate information systems
- Incentives for providers
- Organisation and task delegation
- Attitudes, professional norms, regulation
An example from NL: The “preventive consultation”

Identifying and managing high-risk patients for cardiovascular diseases

• Phase 1: Screening
• Phase 2: Management plan
• Phase 3: Implementation and long-term adherence
An example from NL: The “preventive consultation”

**Public Health**
- Risk assessment
- Facilities for preventive services
- Embedding in local community

**Primary Care**
- Eligibility
- Management plan
- Long-term monitoring
Organisation: from cottage industry to modern community health service
Local health policy
Local health policy
In summary

Public Health and Primary Care

• must come closer
• there are many opportunities for collaboration
  – Prevention
  – Sharing of information
  – Health and health services policy
• Local community is the starting point
Cooperation between public health and primary care: a inspiring impulse for Swiss doctors?
Thank you for your attention