

Accelerating Implementation of the 2007 Port of Spain Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)

CLINICAL QUALITY OF CARE

The 2007 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government Summit produced the landmark Port of Spain Declaration on NCDs. An evaluation of successes and challenges in implementing the Declaration's commitments has been undertaken.¹ This fact sheet highlights evaluation results, the current situation and how we can accelerate action.

2007 NCD Declaration mandates: Comprehensive plans for the screening and management of chronic diseases and risk factors so that by 2012, 80% of people with NCDs would receive quality care and have access to preventive education based on regional guidelines

Where we are

- An effective NCD response must include both prevention and evidenced-based treatment interventions for those living with NCDs to receive high-quality care.
- There is need for improved detection and management of NCDs, especially hypertension and diabetes.
- Monitoring of chronic clinical care should be improved so that more information on mortality and morbidity is available to shape clinical interventions and outcomes.
- There is a need to rationalise the range of drugs used in NCD treatment and control.

The way forward

Goal: 80% of people with NCDs to receive quality clinical care.

Policies and plans

- Accelerate the implementation of evidence-based chronic care.
- Accelerate the implementation of the chronic care model linking patient, provider and system-level interventions.
 - Use primary healthcare interventions to strengthen early detection and timely treatment.
- Improve detection and management of hypertension and diabetes, including in the workplace, particularly to screen asymptomatic males.
 - Review and update national drug formularies to rationalise vital and essential NCD drugs.
 - Utilise the PAHO regional drug purchasing machinery to buy high-quality generic NCD drugs recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) to take advantage of economies of scale, recognising that local commercial interests may oppose this.
- Refer to specific recommendations of the World Health Organization NCD 'best buys':
 - Counselling and multidrug therapy for people with a high risk of developing heart attacks and strokes.
 - Treatment of heart attacks with aspirin.
 - Screening and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions to prevent cervical cancer.
- Develop clinical guidelines on management of alcohol problems.
- Integrate screening and interventions for alcohol problems into primary healthcare.
- Introduce or enhance electronic medical records, with a focus on generating reports for action.
- Enhance surveillance systems, including national registries, to share lessons learned from clinical interventions.
- Introduce social health insurance to facilitate quality health services, universal access and universal coverage for at least a basic package for all residents.

We are making progress

An example: A global hypertension treatment project



The Global Standardized Hypertension Treatment Project (GSHTP) is a pioneering response to the epidemic of high blood pressure, the leading risk factor for death in the Caribbean and around the world. In launching this project, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pan American Health Organization with other stakeholders, chose Barbados as the first country to pilot the GSHTP.

Hypertension, the main risk factor for cardiovascular diseases such as heart attack and stroke, causes over nine million largely preventable deaths globally every year. In the Caribbean, the condition is the leading mortality risk factor and the numbers of people living with the disease range from 20% in some countries up to an alarming 50% in others.

The Barbados pilot, a broad-scale hypertension treatment programme, began in April 2014, aim to develop a sustainable model for the control of hypertension that can be applied regionally and globally. GSHTP is based on the identification of a core set of medications, widespread availability of these medications and improved care and delivery of medicine use. A clinical toolkit is provided to healthcare professionals that includes educational materials and webinars on standardised treatment protocols and clinical tools for hypertension management and medical adherence.

The local implementing institutions are the Barbados Ministry of Health and the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill, the University of the West Indies. The Principal Investigator is Dr Kenneth Connell, Lecturer, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill and there is a local project oversight team made up of medical professionals. The project is managed by the Healthy Caribbean Coalition and overseen by Executive Director, Mrs Maisha Hutton, and President, Sir Trevor Hassell. It is hoped that this project will provide a model for treatment and care that will improve the lives of the millions coping with hypertension. Results will be published in 2016.

Visit our website at www.onecaribbeanhealth.org for full Evidence Briefs from the evaluation, recommendations for accelerating action and much more on NCDs.

