

Press Release

Group of experts “Diabetic Foot Syndrome” wants to roll out Fußnetz Nordrhein (footnet North Rhine) all over Germany.

Berlin, August 16th 2011 - They want to improve the medical treatment situation of the diabetic foot syndrome (DFS) and decrease the high amputation rate. The group of experts “Diabetic Foot Syndrome”, founded in November 2010, is going to construct Germany’s biggest data directory for DFS along the lines of the footnet North Rhine. This was decided by the members of the group of experts this weekend in Berlin. To this group belong representatives of the Deutsche Diabetes Gesellschaft (DDG - German diabetes society), of diabetes.de, the AG Fuß by the DDG, of the Deutsche Diabetes Stiftung (DDS – German diabetes foundation), of the Forum für Qualitätssicherung in der Diabetologie (FQSD - forum for quality assurance within diabetology) as well as leaders of foot networks and diabetes centers.

“In our opinion the Fußnetz Nordrhein should be the standard model for all IV-contracts, as at present it got the most structured data capture, the biggest data set about the diabetic foot syndrome and especially because it has also an external quality control”, pointed out the speaker of the group Dr. med. Alexander Risse, head of the diabetes center at the Hospital Dortmund. „Because we do urgently need such a register over a wide area to improve the suboptimal medical treatment situation, we will now roll out this model throughout Germany. On the basis of this data we will be able to prove the quality differences, expected by us, between the standard care and the care through foot networks.”

As a next step the experts will add to the existing data sets in North Rhine further parameters relevant for treatment, such as the shoe care. Aside from diabetologists, angiologists, vascular surgeons and dermatologists also have a say in what information should be gathered for the DFS in future. Also taken into account are the National Disease Management Guidelines, the data record description by the AG Fuß and the diabetes register DIVE. As a result, a nationwide register should emerge, which portrays the final result of the total supply chain - from the ambulant area to home nursing services to the inpatient sector. The experts hope for similar successes as in North Rhine-Westphalia. There the foot networks have been established for years and the connected IV-contracts brought about a real quality leap: The major amputation rate went down to less than two percent from initially over ten percent.

“The Fußnetz Nordrhein is the seed. Now we want to put it on a larger foundation to finally have available Germany-wide valid data to assess therapy measures”, said Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Landgraf, chairman of the board of directors of the Deutsche Diabetes Stiftung (german diabetes foundation).

Also Dr. med. Kristina Pralle, director of a diabetes specialized medical practice in Berlin and initiator of the foot network Berlin/ Brandenburg, welcomed the set-up of a national DFS-register: “An external control of the care provider in the ambulatory field has long been overdue. The foot networks in North Rhine have shown exemplarily that the integrated care with incorporated control mechanisms make a significant improvement of the care quality possible.”

For the health insurances a nationwide DFS-register should be of exceptional importance, after all it also is about the costs. Similar to North Rhine the sponsors should be integrated into the project. „We have developed the care possibilities at the diabetic foot together with the sponsors”, reported Dr. Dirk Hochlenert, co-founder of the footnet North Rhine. „For the started project we are already in dialogue with the biggest public health insurances.”

The group of experts is furthermore cooperating with Prof. Dr. Ursula Hübner, professor of medical and health informatics and director of the research group informatics within the healthcare system at the University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück, for defining the intersection of IT-systems.

Meanwhile the group around Dr. Risse aboards further experts: In the near future representatives of the sponsors, economists, lawyers and hygiene specialists should also extend the group to make the compilation of further action fields possible. This includes the prognosis of health economic impacts by changes within the regulatory action frame of the DFS-therapy, the assessment of legal action consequences of insufficiently considered amputations and the evaluation of new therapy methods.

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