

CVD prevention in General Practice in Europe/4th Joint Task Force on the Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases

Dear Council Member

The work of the 4th Joint Task Force is nearly finished.

Arno Hoes and I attended a Task Force meeting in Croatia May 12-13, where the full text, the executive summary and the pocket guidelines were discussed after the first review round. The document has now undergone a new, second peer review. I have not got the final text yet, but because of the time constraint, I will now propose a plan for endorsement. Three other members of Wonca Europe, appointed by the German Society, the Swedish Society and Europrev have been external reviewers on behalf of Wonca.

First of all, I feel it is important to underline that the three of us working with this project on behalf of Wonca Europe: Arno Hoes and myself as members of the Task Force and Edmond Walma as a contributing expert are to a large extent very satisfied with the revision. In my opinion, the 2007 Guidelines is much more in line with GP thinking and priorities than the earlier versions. It is strongly underlined that the Guidelines should be adjusted and revised in the individual country to bring it in line with national epidemiology and priorities.

I give you a brief summary of important points in the attached document, which is meant for publishing in an ESC Newsletter during the ESC Conference in Vienna, September 2007, after endorsement and publishing of the Guidelines.

The Full text is very large - more than 300 pages with tables and references. Even the Executive Summary, containing the important points from each chapter, is rather large (approx. 70 pages) and will not be read by most doctors. Therefore, a Pocket Guideline will also be published, together with a flowchart (initiated by us) and electronic versions. The ESC Guidelines committee will coordinate the publishing process. The full text will be published in the European Journal of CV Prevention and Rehabilitation (an ESC Journal) in its August issue, and there will be Co-publishing of the Executive Summary in several European Specialty Journals. I have also asked Colin Bradley if it is possible to co-publish the summary in EJGP. Alternatively, the planned European Journal of CVD in Primary Care, launched by the ESCCPC group where both Christos Lionis, Arno Hoes, Edmond Walma and myself are members of the interim board is a possibility, later this year.

The final document is not yet ready, but it will probably not be very different from the draft document (dated 22-06-07) which is enclosed.

For priority, focus on Introduction, Chapter 5, 19 and 20, and the Executive Summary (page 252-337).

Normally, the Executive should endorse such documents. But because of the history, the Council as such should discuss it.

The Wonca expert group has planned a session in Singapore to present the Guidelines.

Best regards, and we look forward to the discussions in Singapore!

Oslo, July 3rd 2007

Bjørn Gjelsvik
Vice President (and chair of Wonca Europe Expert Group)