GARD demonstration projects

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What is a GARD demonstration project?

- A **GARD demonstration project** provides means for dissemination of beneficial innovations for the surveillance, prevention and control of chronic respiratory diseases.
- It should be adapted to local needs
- GARD has demonstration projects in:
  - Brazil
  - France
  - Portugal
  - Turkey
  - Finland
  - Korea
  - South Africa
  - United States of America
Reduction in hospitalizations and emergency room visits in children and adolescents with asthma after enrolment in a public asthma programme for low-income families, Belo Horizonte City

Belo Horizonte: 2.4 million inhabitants
Prevalence surveys: 40% of infants less than 15 months old and 20% of adolescents aged 13–14 years had suffered from at least one episode of wheezing over the past 12 months.

Overall 20 000 children and adolescents have been assisted by the Programme in the past 10 years.
3 000 patients are currently on follow-up.

Overall coverage with inhaled steroids increased from less than 3% of children with persistent asthma in 1996, to 17% by the end of 2000, and to 30% by the end of 2006.
Impact of a public health intervention for management of severe asthma on health resource utilization and costs

Salvador: 2.7 million inhabitants
prevalence of asthma: 27.1% (adolescents), one of the highest in the world.

Programme for Control of Asthma and Allergic Rhinitis (ProAR):
Significant reduction in frequency of hospital admissions (-90%),
emergency department visits (-85%), systemic corticosteroid
use (-67%) and school and work days lost (-86%).

Income of the families increased by US$711/year
The total cost of asthma was reduced by US$638/family/year.

Consequently, a median annual surplus of US$1,349/family became available.
Efficiency of the Finnish asthma plan
Haahtela et al, Thorax 2006

Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases
www.who.int/gard
The Programme is based upon the experience from the Finish Asthma Programme and is an educational action plan, which takes the advantage of the contact person network created during the Asthma Programme.

The general aim is to reduce the allergy burden in 2008–2018 through 6 main goals:
1. Prevent development of allergy symptoms: prevalence of asthma, allergic rhinitis and atopic eczema is decreased by 20%;
2. Increase tolerance against allergens: number of subjects on elimination diets caused by food allergy are decreased by 50%;
3. Improve allergy diagnostics: all patients are tested in quality certified allergy testing centres;
4. Reduce work-related allergies: allergic diseases defined as occupational are decreased by 50%;
5. Allocate resources to manage and prevent exacerbations of severe allergies: "Allergy Control Cards" are in use in the whole country and emergency visits caused by asthma are decreased by 40%;
6. Decrease costs due to allergic diseases: predefined costs are reduced by 20%.
France - Asthma Programme

1- increase awareness on asthma (patients and public)

2- improve
   • management of acute severe asthma
   • follow-up of asthmatics
   • diagnosis and management of childhood asthma in schools

3- increase patient education

4- better manage and prevent occupational asthma

5- surveillance of asthma and risk factors
Portugal - Asthma and COPD Programmes
PALSA Plus has been adapted in South Africa from the World Health Organization’s Practical approach to lung health (PAL) initiative.

PALSA Plus is an integrated plan used primarily by primary care nurses for the management of priority respiratory diseases including TB and HIV infection.
• The Turkish Thoracic Society, a GARD participant, took the lead to initiate discussions on GARD Turkey. The next step was to prepare a proposal for the National Control Program in Chronic Airway Diseases (Asthma – COPD).
• For this purpose, a committee was set up to prepare a draft project that was presented to the Ministry of Health for approval. The Ministry of Health approved the project via signing a letter of support to GARD and its work in the country.
• GARD Turkey was therefore established. The first GARD Turkey General Meeting was held in Ankara on 19 October 2007 with the participation of various interested parties in the field of chronic respiratory diseases, including the Turkish National Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, another GARD participant. Other scientific organizations, representatives of institutions of the government and representatives of various departments in the Ministry of Health are currently GARD Turkey collaborating parties.
• GARD Turkey launch will be held on 29 May 2008 in Istanbul.
Learn More, Breathe Better

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has developed a national campaign—Learn More, Breathe Better—to increase awareness and understanding of COPD and its risk factors.

The campaign seeks to:

• Increase awareness of COPD as a serious lung disease—the 4th leading cause of death in the United States of America;

• Increase understanding that COPD is treatable;

• Encourage people at risk to get a simple breathing test and talk to their doctors about treatment options.
**Asthma IQ**: A web-based tool to assist proper implementation of asthma guidelines

The "Asthma Specialist Tool to Help Manage Asthma and Improve Quality" (ASTHMA IQ) is the first-of-its-kind web-based tool designed and developed by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

ASTHMA IQ helps clinicians to:

- Use evidence-based medicine to make treatment decisions
- Graph and report patients’ asthma status over time
- Analyze statistics for the asthma patients in their practice.