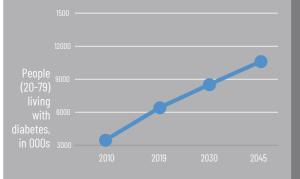


AN OVERVIEW OF DIABETES CARE

country: Turkey



DIABETES PREVALENCE



Of which, undiagnosed 38.3% (2,522,600 people)

Children & adolescents with T1D (0-19y) 25,953



In Turkey, 97% of the population is covered by the national social security. People living with diabetes (PwD) do not have to pay for any of their diabetes care out-of-pocket, except for the newest medicines and technologies.

All PwD, irrespective of the type of diabetes they live with, are treated in secondary and tertiary care settings, where diabetes education is also provided. There is no shortage of internal specialists or endocrinologists and the waiting lists are short.

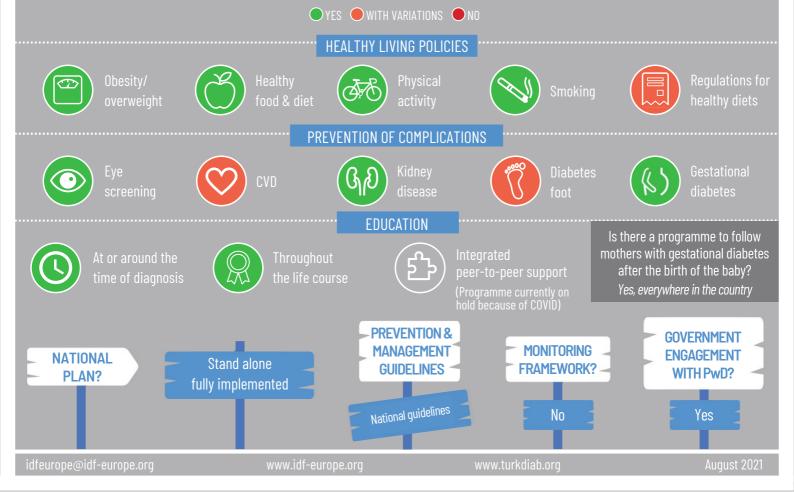
Prescriptions can be renewed by primary care physicians who are also allowed to order some lab tests. There is, however, a very limited number of diabetes nurses. There is also a shortage of dieticians. Multidisciplinary teams are not yet in place in diabetes centres. There is also a need for better diabetes care at primary care level.

Diabetes education was initiated by the Turkish Diabetes Foundation in primary care health centres to encourage and motivate people living with T2D, when they were coming to renew their prescriptions. The Foundation also carried out a structured peer-to-peer education programme in 21 cities and reached more than 25,000 PwD.

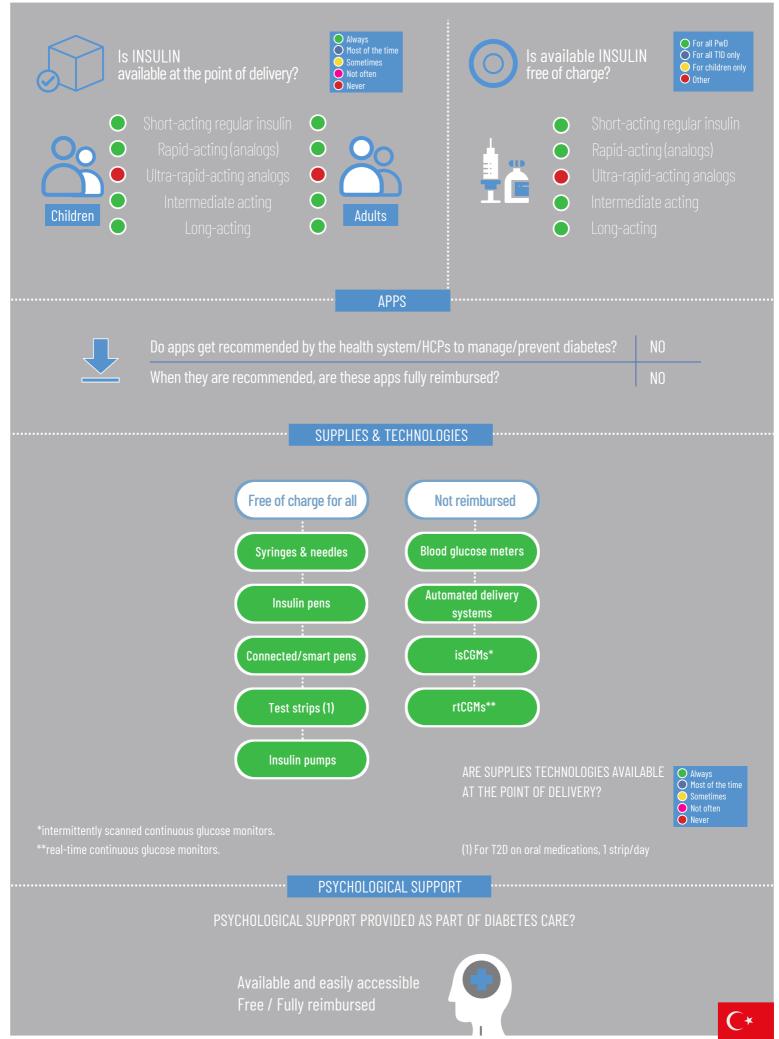
There is a national diabetes registry, based on the International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 codes. PwD are registered either as IDDM (insulin dependent diabetes mellitus) or as NIDDM (noninsulin dependent diabetes mellitus). Data is accessible primarily by the Ministry of Health (MoH). Physicians can also request access to the data of their patients, with their permission only. There is a National Diabetes Plan, supplemented by two other initiatives "Diabetes 2020: Vision and targets-Turkey" and the "Diabetes Parliament". The latter was initially driven by the Turkish Diabetes Foundation and gathers all diabetes stakeholders and decision-makers (patient organisations; as well as representatives of all diabetes-related HCPs, the social security institution, every political party of the government; and a representative from the MoH or the Minister of Health himself and a representative of the Presidency). Conventions, led by civil society, are held twice a year (in non-COVID times). Diabetes is considered a "political" priority.

E-health was very much on the agenda during the COVID-19 pandemic. Real-time consultations were used in some centres, and people who developed COVID-19 or were at high risk were closely followed online. There remain, nevertheless, many gaps in the legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as issues with data and PwD's safety and healthcare professionals' (HCPs) liability.

DIABETES PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT



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