

Knowledge transfer from Belgian government to medical doctors

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INTRODUCTION

- In Belgium, general practitioners (GPs), occupational physicians (OPs) and social insurance physicians (SIPs) have complementary tasks on work disability prevention and integration (WDPI). However, there is a lack of inter-physician collaboration in WDPI.
- In 2009-2011, the Belgian Ministry of Employment commissioned a study to identify GP-OP-SIP collaboration channels, in order to prevent unnecessary long-term work disability [1]. One of the six policy recommendations issued by this study, was to stimulate inter-physician collaboration by **setting up** common seminars for GPs, OPs, and SIPs.
- This poster illustrates how this recommendation was ~~to stimulate inter-physician collaboration by common seminars can be~~ put into practice.



METHODS

- Preparation of the seminars
 - The scientific **associations** of GPs, OPs, and SIPs were included in the organisation of the seminars.
 - To respect the bilingual character of Belgium, one French-spoken and one Flemish-spoken seminar **were** organized in 2012.
 - The Ministry of Employment and the Sickness and Invalidity Insurance provided financial and practical support for the seminars.
- The aim of the seminars was to achieve a double WDPI knowledge transfer

DOUBLE WDPI KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER



1. Bringing to practicing physicians WDPI evidence-based guidelines, as described in the study [1]

2. Bringing back to the Ministry of Employment the physicians' opinions on three policy recommendations suggested in the study [1] but not yet validated by a large group of physicians



A transdisciplinary training at the seminar

Promoting press releases to spread out the WDPI messages

An on-line voting system at the seminar



RESULTS

- About 400 people participated at the seminars, of which 91% physicians (38% GPs; 27% OPs; 26% SIPs)
- Training included interactive presentations on:
 - WDPI legislation
 - Physicians' role clarification
 - Evidence in WDPI research
 - Practical cases of long-term sickness absence
 - Examples of good practices with successful return to work

- Press picked up the news and at least 5 articles were published

- The participants underlined their support (agreement > 80%) for the three policy recommendations submitted to the votes:
 - Invest in a common training of the three physician groups
 - Promote the pre-return to work visit with the OP for sick-listed patients
 - Establish common guidelines for concerted return to work guidance

CONCLUSION

A double WDPI knowledge transfer was successfully put into practice in Belgium. Let's not stop there!

[1] Ph Mairiaux, N Schippers, M Vanmeerbeek, Ph Denoël, P Donceel, C Tiedtke, K Mortelmans. (2011) Improving the collaboration between general practitioners, insurance physicians and occupational physicians to prevent long-term and work-related sickness absences. Federal Government, Brussels, Belgium.

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