



**SCREENING CHAPTER 28
CONSUMER AND HEALTH PROTECTION**

AGENDA ITEM IV: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

**Country Session: The Republic of TURKEY
6-7 July 2006**



LEGAL BASIS

- **Constitution (1982; Article 56)**
- **Law on General Hygiene (1930; No: 1593)**



COMPETENT AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MoH)



LAW ON GENERAL HYGIENE

Article 1

Responsibilities of the State:

- **improving** health conditions throughout the country
- **struggling** with all agents and threats to the community
- **ensuring** healthy growth of new generation
- **providing** the medical services to the population.



LAW ON GENERAL HYGIENE

Article 2

- Public health care is the duty of MoH and local administrative structures and municipalities are responsible for implementing the related services.



LAW ON GENERAL HYGIENE

Article 20

Responsibilities of municipalities regarding communicable diseases (CD):

- Providing healthy and safe water
- Establishment of the sewage system
- Contribution to the CD control activities



LAW ON GENERAL HYGIENE

Article 57

List of CDs to be notified:

- Cholera, Dysentery (bacillary and amoebic), Typhoid fever, Paratyphoid fever, any other food-borne diseases; Plague (bubonic or pneumonic form), Epidemic typhus, Smallpox, Diphtheria, Epidemic meningitis, Scarlet fever, Anthrax, Poliomyelitis, Measles, Leprosy, Rabies and suspected contact, Brucellosis



LAW ON GENERAL HYGIENE

Article 58

Notification Obligation:

- Having diagnosed as a confirmed or probable case, all clinicians should notify the cases stated in Article 57 to the Health Department within 24 hours.
- If there is no Health Department in the district, police or gendarmerie forces should be notified with the name and address of the case in written or oral form.



LAW ON GENERAL HYGIENE

Article 64

MoH is also responsible for taking measures against outbreaks or threats caused by agents, other than those listed in Article 57.



LAW ON GENERAL HYGIENE

Measures for controlling CDs

- quarantine or isolation conditions
- vaccination principles
- water sanitation and other precautions
- decontamination procedures



LAW ON GENERAL HYGIENE

Although some of the following diseases has low incidence in Turkey.

Within the context of this Law, specific measures have been taken for;

- malaria, trachoma, STDs, tuberculosis
- transborder CD threats.



MILESTONES OF CD CONTROL IN TURKEY

- **1885;** “Variola Law” was put into force as the first law on smallpox in the world
- **1892;** variola vaccine was produced at the first time in Superior Hygiene Centre in Istanbul
- **1895;** production of diphtheria antiserum was started by Prof. Maurice Nicolle in the Centre
- **1913;** production of vaccines for cholera, typhoid and dysentery were started
- **1918;** involvement of NGOs in CD control in tb



MILESTONES OF CD CONTROL IN TURKEY

- **1920**; foundation of the “Ministry of Health” by the Law No:3
- **1928**; establishment of the “**National Hygiene Center**” by the Law No:1267 for monitoring and tracing the infectious diseases threats
- **1930**; “**Law on General Hygiene**” No:1593. Obligation to notify the CDs by this Law.
- **1937**; production of the univalent diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccines was started
- **1953**; BCG and influenza vaccine production laboratories were accredited by the WHO and awarded

MILESTONES OF CD CONTROL IN TURKEY

- **1961**; "Socialisation of Health Care" Law No:224.
- **1963**; OPV implementation for poliomyelitis was started
- **1968**; production and implementation of the **trivalent** Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus vaccine
- **1970**; vaccination against measles with attenuated vaccine was started
- **1980**; the lowest level of diphtheria morbidity rates in the past 20 years from 20s to 0.2 per 100.000 population same as the trends in European countries



MILESTONES OF CD CONTROL IN TURKEY

- **1981; “Expanded Program on Immunisation”** was introduced
- **1985; “National Vaccination Campaign”** increased the immunisation coverage from 20-30% to 80%
- **1989; “Polio Eradication Program”** was started.
- **2000; “Neonatal Tetanus Elimination Program”**
- **2002; Turkey eradicated polio and declared to be a polio free country in this year by the WHO**
- **2003; “Measles Elimination Program”**; the elimination of measles is planned to be achieved by the year 2010

ALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

- a **Technical Commission** within the Ministry for approximation of EU legislation, in 2001.
- an **Expert Commission** (involving universities and relevant institutions) to make immediate adjustments on the list of notifiable diseases and notification rules, in 2002.



ALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

Expert Commission completed its mission in 2004.

Accordingly;

- the **list of notifiable diseases** was updated and the number of diseases was increased from 39 to 51 in accordance with the Commission Decision 2000/96/EC.
- **standard case definitions** were made and introduced for the first time in history of surveillance system in accordance with the Commission Decision No: 2002/253/EC
- **compulsory notification** by laboratories for some infectious agents was introduced for the first time

ALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

- a **sentinel surveillance approach** was accepted for some infectious diseases to increase the contribution of hospitals to the notification system
- an **instruction** (No:1534) on “Communicable Diseases Notification Rules” was issued on 24 February, 2004
- a **communiqué** on “Communicable Diseases Notification Rules” was published (OG No:25635 of 06.11.2004)
- **guidelines** on case definitions and recommended laboratory work for diagnosis was issued and distributed to the physicians, in September 2004

ALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

- the communiqué and Guidelines had been translated into English and sent to EC, in 2005
- **meetings** for introducing the Guidelines to Provincial Health Directorates and front line physicians were held in 2005
- **Basic Health Statistics Module Website (TSIMWEB)** -the national network to collect aggregate data on CD is updated so as to attain a nationwide network as of February 2005.
- Studies to include **early warning** function to the network, in line with EU Decision 2000/57, will be completed by the end of 2007.



ALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

Communicable diseases listed in the Instruction No:1534

Vaccine preventable dis.

Diphtheria / Pertussis / Tetanus /
Neonatal Tetanus / Poliomyelitis
/ Influenza / Mumps / Measles /
H.influenza type B / Rubella /
Congenital rubella

Sexually transmitted dis.

Chlamydia infec. / HIV-infection /
Gonococcal infec. / Syphilis

Food- and water-borne dis. and environmental dis.

Campylobacteriosis / Giardiasis /
Cryptosporidiosis / Infection with
EHEC / Leptospirosis /
Listeriosis / Salmonellosis /
Shigellosis / Toxoplasmosis /
Acute bloody diarrhoea
syndrome / Shistosomiasis /
Trachoma



Viral Hepatitis (A, B, C)

Air-borne diseases

Legionellosis / Meningococcal dis. / Tuberculosis

Zoonoses

Brucellosis / Echinococcosis / Rabies / Anthrax / Tularemia / Cutaneous leishmaniasis / Visceral leishmaniasis

Serious imported diseases

Cholera / Malaria / Plague / Epidemic typhus / Smallpox

Diseases transmitted by non-conventional agents

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies variant (CJD)

Viral haemorrhagic fevers

Yellow fever / Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic fever

Specific Health Issues

ALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

Specific Health Issues

- “By-law on Hospital Infection Control” (OG No:25903, 11.08.2005)
- A “Focal Point” for monitoring “Hospital Infection Control” activities in Refik Saydam National Hygiene Centre, as of January 2006.
- Technical studies for setting up an “Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance” still continue.

ALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

ZOOONOTIC INFECTIONS

- Ministry of Agriculture is the responsible authority for controlling zoonotic infections.
- MoH and MoA established “National Zoonosis Committee” in 1991. Working procedures on monitoring of zoonosis and zoonotic agents; epidemiological investigation of food-borne outbreaks and exchange of information related to zoonosis are being revised.
- A circular on “National Pandemic Influenza Action Plan” is issued on 15 June 2006, No: 2006/67.

ALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

Dedicated Surveillance Networks

contact points assigned for:

- EUROHIV- European Centre for Epidemiological Monitoring of AIDS (1994)
- EWGLI- European Working Group for *Legionella* Infections (2001)
- ENTER-NET- International surveillance network for enteric infections (applied for membership in 2004)



ALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

European CD and health threats surveillance systems

collaborator of:

- EUROTUB- Surveillance of tuberculosis in Europe (data exchange since 1997)
- ELWGD- European Laboratory Working Group on Diphtheria (partnership since 2000)
- INSIGHT- International Network of National Public Health Institutes: Refik Saydam National Hygiene Centre is one of the *Charter Member* of this network since February, 2006



ALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

EU funded projects

- Strengthening Of Epidemiological Surveillance And Control Of Communicable Diseases System (ESCCDS) In Turkey
- 2 sequential Projects under 2004 and 2005 Pre-accession Financial Cooperation Programmes
(Project-1 TR0403.06 and Project-2 TR0503.13)
- The projects foresee the strengthening of the institutional structure, capacity and the legal framework of the current system (CDSS) to be in conformity with the EU Directives, in terms of structure, function, capacity, effectiveness and resources



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION