

The Voice of the Board

Dear Colleagues,

Within the framework of the new Main Board of the Polish Diabetes Association (PDA) under the leadership of Professor Maciej Malecki, every member of the Main Board has been given a task of coordinating different areas of PDA activity. My responsibility is to coordinate and improve the cooperation with organizations of nurses and midwives.

Needless to say, this is a very important area. Vast majority of educators, who play a key role in broadly defined diabetes care, come from this occupational group.

With the rapidly changing adult and paediatric diabetology, educators' responsibilities and complexity of many aspects of diabetes education has expanded considerably. Currently, advanced technological solutions, such as manual closed-loop insulin pumps, continuous glucose monitoring systems and novel options for self-control with the elements of telemedicine, are not new discoveries described in the literature, but are available in everyday practice. It should be mentioned, that refund of the costs of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) sensors for paediatric patients, which is planned to be implemented soon, will certainly imposed additional burden to educators.

In adult diabetology, besides newly-developed technologies mentioned above, there are also new drug therapies available for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, which demands from diabetes educators to continuously upgrade their knowledge.

However, additional burden imposed to nurses is not only related to education. It should be remembered

that there are many new responsibilities for nurses, such as those associated with new prescribing regulations.

Worth to notice are some collaborative initiatives or projects undertaken by nurses and the members of the Main Board of PDA. In my opinion, one of the most important cooperative projects was the development of the educational counselling as a separately contracted service.

provided by diabetic educators. The meeting organized on the initiative of Alicja Szewczyk, the National Consultant in the area of diabetes nursing, was held on July 31, 2015 at the Ministry of Health. Active participants of this meeting were the members of the Main Board of the PDA and the members of the two largest organizations of nurses and midwives — Polish Federation of Education in Diabetology (PFED) and the Diabetes Education Association (DEA) under the leadership of Alicja Szewczyk. The project has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

It is worth to be mentioned that the largest organizations of nurses — PFED and DEA — play a key role in the education of both patients and nurses/midwives.

The crowning achievement of excellent cooperation between organizations of nurses and the Main Board of PDA during its term of office will be a session for nurses that is going to be held at the next PDA Congress in Kielce. This session, which I will have the pleasure to chair, will be devoted to very interesting topics and I cordially invite the readers to participate.

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