

Preface



Ian and then also Laura have helped German children with diabetes to become familiar with the situation for more than twenty years. An accompanying booklet for parents gives advice how to handle this new task for the adult family members and explains in easy terms the concept of age-appropriate diabetes education.

Age-appropriate education and training has become standard over the last three decades in treating children with diabetes. It is included in both national and international guidelines like the 2014 Consensus Guidelines of the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (www.ISPAD.org).

Despite guidelines and consensus statements, there remains huge variation in diabetes outcomes across countries and even between treatment facilities within the same country. Patient education is one of the most important measures within the scope of diabetes therapy for enabling people with diabetes to conduct active self-management. „SWEET“ is an acronym derived from “Better control in Pediatric and Adolescent diabeteS : Working to CrEat CEnTers of Reference” and is based on a partnership of established national and European diabetes organizations (www.sweet-project.eu) led by ISPAD. With a vision of equal, high quality care for all children with diabetes, SWEET has the mission to harmonize care to optimize outcomes in children and adolescents. In light of the advances of modern diabetes therapy becoming more widely available it created a platform for exchanging best practices among leading pediatric diabetes units.

With the help of the Leonardo da Vinci Lifelong Learning Program of the European Union an EU wide diabetes educator course was developed

and these German educational materials were identified as fulfilling the educational needs. The authors of this English translation and cultural adaptation have taken great care to make these materials appropriate for use outside Germany.

I am convinced that this edition of the “Diabetes in Children” education program will have a similar success like in Germany were it was certified by the German Federal Insurance Office for use in long-term treatment and is a part of the German Disease Management Program (DMP) for type 1 diabetes in pediatrics. Disease management is a system of coordinated health care interventions and communications for people with conditions in which patient self-care efforts are of significant importance.

I wish to thank all contributors, physicians, nurses, psychologists, educators, dietitians, social workers and other members of diabetes teams that have contributed to this program. I trust that those that are facilitating the understanding of this complex disease for families worldwide with a command of the English language may find it useful. The SWEET initiative is committed to support and continuously review and improve educational tools for pediatric diabetes, so please give us feedback for potential areas of improvement. With all my best personal wishes for the child with diabetes, its family, and all those concerned with their well-being, I remain on behalf of the SWEET project, yours sincerely



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