

THE COSTS OF DIABETES MELLITUS OUTPATIENT AND HOSPITAL CARE IN EIGHT HEALTH-CARE INSTITUTIONS IN COLOMBIA DURING 2014

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Introduction: The costs of treatment for patients with diabetes mellitus (DM) have resulted in an increasing economic burden to the health-care systems worldwide. Objective: To determine the direct costs of DM outpatient and hospital care in eight health-care institutions in Colombia in 2014 generated in those institutions, and to assess if there are gender differences. Methods: Cross-sectional study using clinical chart information of 6.052 diabetes mellitus patients of five primary health-care and three hospital care institutions located in five Colombian cities. Information on utilization of DM medication, health care visits to professionals, laboratory and other diagnostic test related to the management of DM in the participating institutions between 1st January and 31 December, 2014 were recorded. The medication cost was calculated according to the Information System Drug Price (SISMED), the official register of the Colombian Ministry of Health, outpatient cost were assigned from reference prizes and hospital costs were taken directly from billing . Results: The total annual cost per treated DM patient in outpatient care was 464.705 Colombian pesos (COP). The annual treatment costs were significantly higher in women (COP 483.460) than in men (COP 440.160; p-value0.001). The mean costs related to the in-hospital treatment of DM patients was \$4.950.754 in men and \$5.655.126 in women (p-value0.001), respectively. The highest costs during hospitalization corresponded to medications (31%) and diagnostic tests (19%) and the highest proportion of cost of outpatient care was associated with laboratory tests (47%). Conclusion: Diabetes imposes a heavy financial burden for individuals and society in Colombia.