

CLAHRC East Midlands
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National Institute for
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CLAHRCBITE

Brokering innovation through evidence

The Global Economic Impact of Hypoglycaemia on Diabetes Healthcare



Results

Hypoglycaemia has a significant but variable impact on the economics of diabetes healthcare globally.

Who needs to know?

Healthcare professional and researchers.

What did we do:

We assessed the economic impacts of hypoglycaemia, both directly on healthcare providers and indirectly on patients, across different populations reported in the global Hypoglycaemia Assessment Tool (HAT) study. Self-assessment questionnaires and patient diaries were completed by adults with type 1 or type 2 diabetes treated with insulin for more than 12 months in 25 countries and completed by approximately 25,000 patients.

What we found and what does this mean:

Hypoglycaemia has significant direct and indirect economic consequences for healthcare payers across the globe. Direct economic impacts of hypoglycaemia during the 4-week prospective period, included increased blood glucose monitoring, hospitalisation and medical contact. Regional variation in medical contact and hospitalisation was found, with the highest usage in Russia and Latin America. Indirect economic impacts following

hypoglycaemia included loss of productivity due to absence from work or study. Regional differences in work productivity were noted among patients with Type 2 diabetes, with a low prevalence in Northern Europe and Canada and high in Southeast Asia.

What next:

Efforts to prevent both severe and non-severe hypoglycaemia, through optimisation of insulin treatment, better patient education, or improved access to blood glucose testing may help patients more effectively meet their treatment goals, while alleviating some of the costly impacts of hypoglycaemia on healthcare providers.

Evidence:

Aronson R, Galstyan G, Goldfracht M, Al Sifri S, Elliott L, Khunti K. Direct and indirect health economic impact of hypoglycaemia in a global population of patients with insulin-treated diabetes. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract.* 2018;138:35-43. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.diabres.2018.01.007>

What is NIHR CLAHRC EM?

NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs) are collaborations between the NHS, universities and local organisations. Our goals are to conduct applied health research across the East Midlands and translate our research findings into improved outcomes for the public.

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