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THE ITALIAN ARTHROPLASTY REGISTRY: ESSENTIAL ISSUES FOR ITS LARGE IMPLEMENTATION

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Introduction: The Italian Arhroplasty Registry (RIAP) started in 2006 as a pilot project: a federation of regional registries coordinated by the Italian National Institute of Health. Data collection uses Hospital Discharge Records (HDR) integrated by a specific Minimum Data Set (MDS). Since then, eleven regions have been voluntarily enrolled. RIAP is funded by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to support all the activities related to the vigilance and surveillance of the medical devices market. To achieve a high coverage and collect data of high quality, two essential issues need now to be faced: 1) make the participation mandatory; 2) provide the surgeons with useful tools for a correct identification of the implanted devices.

Methods: A national law introducing the registries of the implanted devices was approved by the Italian parliament in December 2012. All the regions participating in the RIAP were stimulated to develop administrative procedures to improve the data collection, according to each specific regional context. A close cooperation with the devices' manufacturers was established to build up a comprehensive and structured database of the implanted devices.

Results: Some regions subjected the reimbursement to the participation in the project. Others included MDS in HDR. Data from fifteen manufacturers (~54.000 reference codes) were collected, covering 69% of the implanted devices at national level.

Discussion: By June 2014 the MoH will give the regions specific rules for collecting data, making it mandatory. The network and the tools developed within the RIAP project will be useful for a quick and effective implementation of the national registry.