Occupational Disease Registries—Characteristics and Experiences

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Due to growth of occupational diseases and also increase of public awareness about their consequences, attention to various aspects of diseases and improve occupational health and safety has found great importance. Therefore, there is the need for appropriate information management tools such as registries in order to recognitions of diseases patterns and then making decision about prevention, early detection and treatment of them. These registries have different characteristics in various countries according to their occupational health priorities. Aim: Aim of this study is evaluate dimensions of occupational diseases registries including objectives, data sources, responsible institutions, minimum data set, classification systems and process of registration in different countries. Material and Methods: In this study, the papers were searched using the MEDLINE (PubMed) Google scholar, Scopus, ProQuest and Google. The search was done based on keyword in English for all motor engines including "occupational disease", "work related disease", "surveillance", "reporting", "registration system" and "registry" combined with name of the countries including all subheadings. After categorizing search findings in tables, results were compared with each other. Results: Important aspects of the registries studied in ten countries including Finland, France, United Kingdom, Australia, Czech Republic, Malaysia, United States, Singapore, Russia and Turkey. The results show that surveyed countries have statistical, treatment and prevention objectives. Data sources in almost the rest of registries were physicians and employers. The minimum data sets in most of them consist of information about patient, disease, occupation and employer. Some of countries have special occupational related classification systems for themselves and some of them apply international classification systems such as ICD-10. Finally, the process of registration system was different in countries. Conclusion: Because occupational diseases are often preventable, but not curable, it is necessary to all countries, to consider prevention and early detection of occupational diseases as the objectives of their registry systems. Also it is recommended that all countries reach an agreement about global characteristics of occupational disease registries. This enables country to compare their data at international levels.

Keywords: registry system, occupational disease, objective, data sources, minimum data set, classification systems and registration process.

1. INTRODUCTION

Occupational diseases caused by occupational activities and working conditions (1). In fact, any disease occurs at early stage as a result of exposure to occupational (physical, chemical or biological) risk factors is an occupational disease (1-3).

Occupational diseases impose considerable costs to workers, their family, health care system and society (4) and reduce productivity and work capacity. According to ILOs' estimates, occupational diseases and injuries causes the loss of 4% of global GDP annually, in other words direct and indirect costs

of these diseases and injuries is about 2.8 trillion dollars (5). In addition, due to social and technological changes, the nature of occupational diseases is changing and new occupational diseases are emerging (6).

In the other hand, occupational diseases are not curable or have long-term and difficult treatment. But most of these diseases are preventable (7, 8). Preventing these diseases requires correct information about prevalence of them (9). Nevertheless, statistical and basic information about some of occupational diseases are not available due to lack of awareness, diagnostic prob-

Country	Name of registry	Responsible institute	Objectives of registry
Finland	FROD (Finnish register of occupational diseases)	FIOH (Finnish institute of occupational health)	Compensation, research and statistical analysis
France	RNV3P(National Network for Moni- toring and Prevention of Occupational Diseases)	ANSES (The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety)	Improvement of diagnostic practices, Risk identification and prevention, policy making and research.
United Kingdom	THOR (The Health and Occupation Research Network)	Centre of Occupational and Environ- mental Health (COEH), University of Manchester	Research, Occupational knowledge improvement, reduction of occupational diseases
Australia	NDS (The National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics)	safe work Australia	Prevention, statistical analysis, compensation
Czech republic	Czech National Registry of Occupational Disease	NIPH(National Institute of Public Health)	Policy making, research, education and statistical analysis
Malaysia	Occupational disease registry	DOSH (Deportment of Occupational Safety and Health)	Prevention, statistical analysis
United states	Occupational disease registry	BLS (bureau of labor statistics)	Identify and eliminate workplace hazards, occupational safety, Measure the effectiveness of laws in decreasing diseases, Design and evaluation of safety programs, Research
Singapore	MOM's electronic reporting system – iReport	MOM (Ministry of Manpower)	Reporting and statistical analysis, management of work place hazards, identifying emerging occupational disease,
Russia	Occupational disease surveillance system in Russia	Russian federation	Determine the causes of problems and the relationship between working conditions and diseases or work fitness problems.
Turkey	Occupational disease surveillance	Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MoLSS)	Reporting and statistical analysis, Research

Table 1. Name, responsible institution and objectives of registries

lems and insufficient attention to these diseases. And there are many limitations in reporting and systematic collection of data relating to occupational diseases. To overcome these challenges developing occupational diseases registries, as an effective solution, is very useful.

Disease or patient registries are the rich sources of information for any decision making in the field of health (10). Like other registries, occupational disease registry is a set of information about work related disease and injuries with different levels of complexity. And applies for multiple purposes such as administrative, statistical, preventive, diagnostic, treatment follow up and research (11). Registry information is crucial to the recognition and then planning for treatment, and prevention of occupational injuries and disease (12). Using this information to detect patterns of disease, can be taken as an effective action to prevent disease and reduce the health, economic and social costs (13, 14).

2. AIM

Considering that there is not comprehensive information about the status of occupational diseases registries in other countries. In this paper, we studied the status of occupational diseases in selected countries, and the results are presented in comparative tables; also some information is described narrative.

3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

In this study, the papers were searched according to keywords in English using the MEDLINE (PubMed) during 1989 to 2017, Google scholar, Scopus, ProQuest and Google. Keywords included "occupational disease", "work related disease", "surveillance", "reporting", "registration system" and "registry" combined with name of the countries including all subheadings. After completed search, all search results were reviewed separately in databases based on titles and related articles were selected. Then we excluded duplicated documents. Two reviewers reviewed all documents separately. Then unrelated documents were excluded and data collection forms were filled with accepted documents.

Then articles have been categorized based on their developer countries. After that the results were presented in the comparative tables. In all stages, the disagreements between reviewers were addressed by group discussion.

4. RESULTS

In this review, documents were included from mentioned database. The included documents arranged according to their selected countries. At last the result presented in two narrative and table format (Table 1 and Table 2).

In this part other characteristics of mentioned registries are describing according the name of the countries.

Finland

In Finland the occupational disease registry covers people who are working under a contract for an employer, public services, public administration, or as entrepreneurs like farmers. There is three ways to reports occupational disease cases to the FROD (Finnish register of occupational disease) (15). In one way, insurance companies send reports from physicians and employers to the FAII (The Federation of Accident Insurance Institution) then FAII send these reports to the FROD. In other way MELA (the farmers' social insurance institution) sends physicians and farmers reports to FROD. In the last way regional state administrative agencies send physicians' reports to the FROD directly.

In Finland occupational diseases reportable including diseases caused by asbestos, skin diseases, Allergic respiratory disease, Injuries caused by repeated pressure, hearing loss, and other diseases including infectious diseases, vibration syndrome, conjunctivitis and different types of poisoning (16-19).

France

RNV 3 is a National Network for Monitoring and Prevention of Occupational Diseases in the France that coordinates Knowledge of the registry for monitoring purposes, recovery and prevention of occupational risks. This network also contributes through Modernet Network (a network of monitoring trends in occupational diseases in the European countries) with other European counterparts (20).

Name of registry	Minimum data set	Data sources	Classification systems
FROD	Demographic, employer, disease, causes of disease, severity and compensation information	Physician reports and insurance reports	Finnish version of ICD-10 ISCO 08-International Standard Classification of Occupations NACE - General Industrial Classification of Economic Activi- ties within the European Communities
RNV3P	Demographic, disease, exposure, occupation and causes of diseases information	General and occupational physicians, experts, school physicians, medical Consultants, patients	ICD-10 CaisseNationaled'AssuranceMaladie, CNAM Classification internationale type des professions ISCO 08 NAP-Nomenclature des ActivitésProfessionnelles,)
THOR	Demographic, diagnosis, cause of disease, occupation and industry in- formation	SWORD (Surveillance of work-related and oc- cupational respiratory disease), Occupational skin surveillance (EPIDERM), Occupational Phy- sicians Reporting Activity (OPRA), Electronic Reporting – IRELAND, Surveillance of infec- tious diseases at work (SIDAW), GP (General Practice)	SOC(Standard occupational classification)
NDS	Demographic, disease, injuries and compensation information	Employers, physicians and patients reports	The Type of Occurrence Classification System (TOOCS) The International Classification of Diseases–Australian Modification (ICD10-AM)
Czech National Registry of Occupational Disease	Patient, disease and work place in- formation	Occupational physicians and employers reports	ICD-10 CZ-NACE (Classification of Economic Activities established by the Czech Statistical Office) CZ-ISCO (Classification of occupations)
Occupational registry (Malaysia)	Patient, disease, industry, employer and institution information	Physicians, employers and self-employed workers reports	ICOP Industry code of practice
Occupational disease registry (United States)	Patient, disease, employer and institution information	Physicians and employers reports	Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)
MOM's electronic re- porting system – iReport	frequency, duration and severity of exposure, structure and process of Work information, work safety related information,	Occupational physician and employers reports	Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) (Approved Codes of Practice) SPRING Singapore guideline SSOC (Singapore Standard Occupational Classification)
Occupational disease surveillance system in Russia	data relating to the working condi- tions of workers, Data that has an im- pact on workers' health	Not reported	Not reported
Occupational disease surveillance (Turkey)	Not reported	Not reported	NACE General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities
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Table 2. Minimum data set, data sources and classification system of registries

The Occupational Disease Consultation Centers (CCPPs) and occupational health services (SSTs), report new cases of occupational diseases to the RNV3 without any inclusion and exclusion criteria. Registration has been done by occupational physicians, general practitioners and other specialists, nurses, medical secretaries and trained intern. RNV3P includes 110 tables of all occupational diseases in France. Most tables' present diseases are caused by chemical substances but some of them including diseases caused by noise, repetitive movements and working conditions (21, 22).

United Kingdom

In United Kingdom the THOR (the health and occupation research network) program created in 2002 Based on the voluntary participation of more than a thousand specialists, including physicians, consultants and dermatologists transmitted diseases, as well as trained general practitioners to report cases of occupational diseases. Since 2005, occupational data from the Republic of Ireland are collected by THOR. It also contributes with other European countries through Modernet Network (23-25).

THOR allows physicians report every item that they believe created by occupational factors addition to the occupational disease list provided by this program (26).

Occupational diseases that are included in THOR are musculoskeletal disorders, stress, depression and anxiety, skin diseases, respiratory diseases and other diseases. THOR covers all people with occupational problems who connect to doctors' offices and clinics (24).

Australia

The National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics (NDS) is a national occupational registration system in Australia. NDS provides information on workers' compensation claims that involve work-related disease in fact every compensation claim request from workers is a new case in the registry system (27, 28). Occupational diseases included in the registry are musculoskeletal diseases, mental disorders, cardiovascular diseases, occupational cancers, respiratory diseases, infectious and parasitic diseases, contact dermatitis and noise-induced hearing loss (29). Range of cases recorded in NDS, are included all new cases (all verified, rejected cases and cases in the decision making process) reported in the current year. Claims that were subsequently withdrawn by the worker and the ones that are outside the scope of application of the program are removed (30).

Czech Republic

The NRNP (the Czech National Registry of Occupational Disease) created in 1991 and is maintained by Centre of occupational medicine of the State Institute of public health in Prague as Central register of occupational diseases. NRNP since 2003 is connected with EODS (European Occupational Diseases Statistics) (31-33). Occupational diseases caused by chemical substances, occupational diseases caused by physical factors, occupational diseases relating to the respiratory pathways, lungs, pleura and peritoneum, occupational skin diseases caused by physical, chemical or biological factors, infectious and parasitic occupational diseases, occupational diseases, occupational diseases, occupational diseases.

eases due to other factors or agents are included in the registry system (34).

Malaysia

The occupational disease registration system in Malaysia was created and is maintained by DOSH (department of occupational safety and health). According to law, employers and physicians are obliged to report new cases of occupational diseases to DOSH (35-37).

Occupational diseases in this registry system including Occupational lung diseases, occupational skin diseases, noise-induced hearing loss, diseases caused by chemical agents (poisoning), diseases caused by biological agents, occupational cancers and other occupational diseases (38).

Registry covers workers in occupations such as manufacturing, mining and quarrying, construction, agriculture, forestry, logging and fishery, utility, transport, storage and communication, wholesale and retail trade, hotel and restaurant, financial, insurance, real estate and business services, public services and statutory bodies (38).

United States

In the United States IIF (Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities) provide rates and the number of occupational diseases, injuries and the number of fatal cases annually. Two main data sources of this program are SOII (The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses) and CFOI (Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries). SOII is a federal program in which employer's reports (OSHA 300 form) are collected from private industry and public sector annually. These reports are processed by BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics). Diseases that are included in the registry contain occupational musculoskeletal diseases, infectious diseases, respiratory diseases, skin diseases and other diseases (39–41).

The registry provides data from all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers in nonfarm industries. The excluded items are self-employed, owners and partners in unincorporated firms, household workers, or unpaid family workers (42).

Singapore

In Singapore "iReport" was introduced as a national system of electronic reporting for occupational diseases in 2006 under the supervision of MOM (Ministry of Manpower) (43). Physicians and employers are required to report cases of occupational diseases. Physicians during ten days from the time of diagnosis should register cases in the iReport system. Employers too within ten days of receiving a written diagnosis of the disease should report it (44).

Occupational diseases list in Singapore including anthrax, asbestosis, barotrauma, , byssinosis, chrome ulceration, compressed air illness, epitheliomatous ulceration, occupational skin diseases, liver angiosarcoma, mesothelioma, noise-induced deafness, occupational asthma, repetitive strain disorder of the upper limb, silicosis, toxic anemia, toxic hepatitis and poisonings due to Aniline, Arsenical, Beryllium, Cadmium, Carbamate, Carbon bisulphide, chronic benzene, Cyanide, Hydrogen sulphide, Lead, Manganese, Mercurial, Organophosphate, Phosphorous and halogen derivatives of hydrocarbon compounds (45).

Russia

Before 2007, Russia was not mandated evaluation of the working environment and working conditions monitoring

was done selective.

A law was passed in 2007 by the Ministry of Health asked all employers that to measure and quantify workplace hazards every 5 years by standardized methods. After that in 2013 Russia adopted the federal law on the basis of a special assessment of working conditions. This law classified working condition in to the 4 level including optimal, permissible, harmful and dangerous (46). According to working condition, workers receive different types of compensation fees (47). The medical commission in suspected cases of occupational diseases reports the results of medical examination to the employers and Rospotrebnadzor (Territorial Department of Federal Service for Oversight of Consumer Protection and Welfare). Then hygienists of Rospotrebnadzor prepare a reports including a description of the sanitary-hygienic characteristics of working conditions, containing the occupational history, description of the working process, information about applied materials and equipment, and levels of occupational exposures during two weeks (48, 49).

Turkey

The SSI (Social Security Institution) is the governing authority of the Turkish social security system and according to law reporting all occupational diseases and injuries to SSI is mandatory. The report arranged and classified by SSI in accordance with the rules of the International Labour Organization.

According to statistics released by SSI in Turkey occupational diseases are divided into 5 groups including occupational diseases caused by chemicals, occupational skin disorders, pneumoconiosis and other respiratory occupational diseases, communicable occupational diseases and occupational diseases caused by physical factors. In total 74 cases of occupational disease are defined in 5 groups.

In this field the main challenge is underreporting of occupational disease in compare with other counties reports such as Germany, United States and Finland (50, 51).

5. CONCLUSION

Obviously, in order to identify and prevent occupational diseases, the existences of valid and powerful information systems such as occupational diseases registries are essential. However, in most countries still appropriate and comprehensive registry systems, for these purposes, does not exist.

On the other hand, despite development and implementation of the occupational diseases registry in some countries, due to lack of international agreements and standards, comparing of data at international level is not possible. Creating such standards will accelerate the development of these systems in other countries.

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