

# Role of national health care system in EP skill development

Serge. A. Trines

Secretary, Netherlands Heart Rhythm Association



LEIDEN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER



# Outline

- National Health Care Insurance System
- National regulatory system for EP procedures
- National training programs
- The Netherlands as a case study
- Recommendations

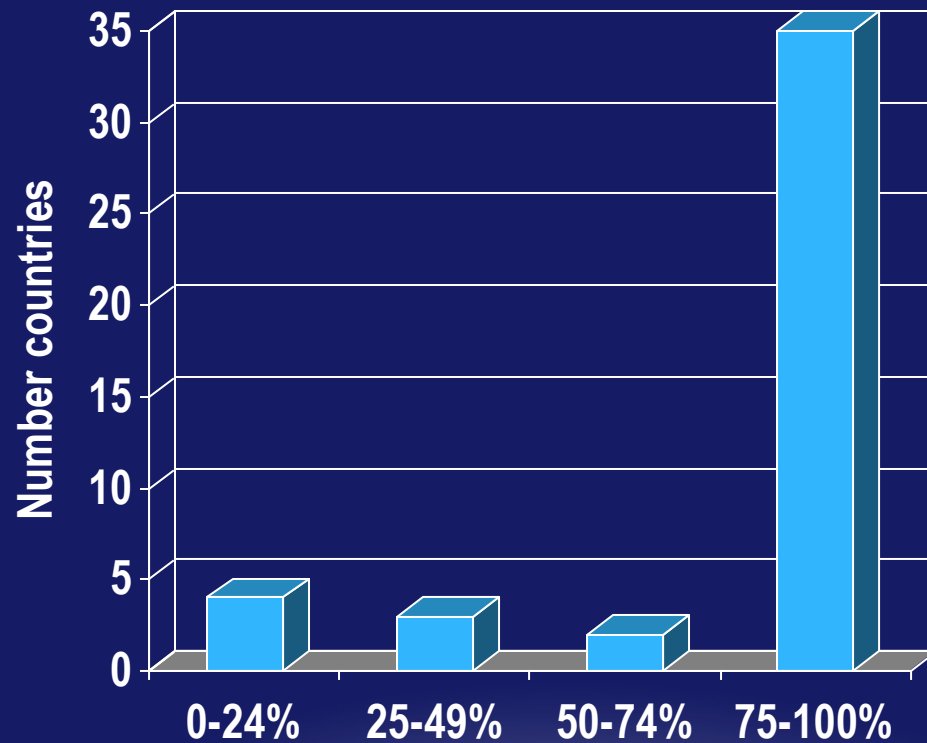
# National Insurance Systems Issues

- Percentage of population insured
- Reimbursement issues
  - Ablation
  - ICD primary prevention
  - ICD secondary prevention
  - Limited numbers
  - Co-payment necessary
- Magnitude of reimbursement
  - Time and additional catheters available for teaching

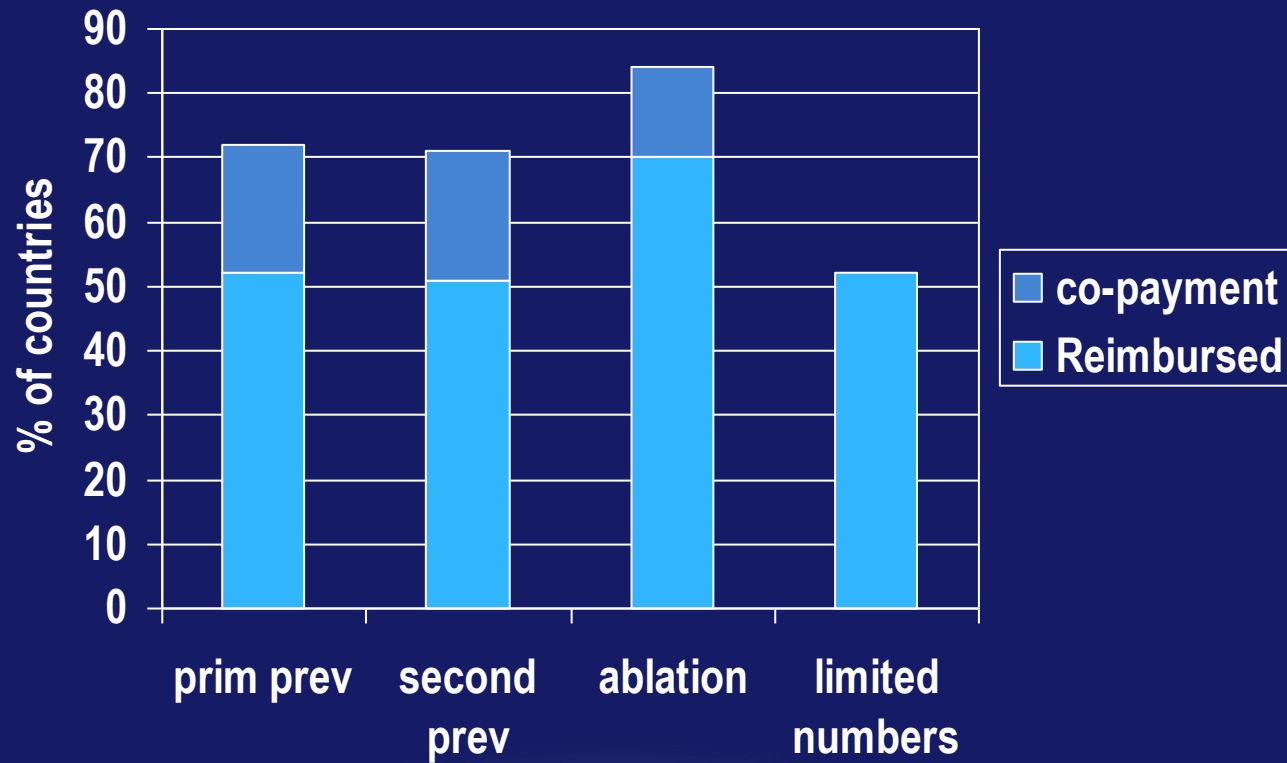
# Percentage of population insured

- 53 countries in EHRA White Book 2011
- Data from 44 countries
- 833 million people, 71% insured (range 0.15-100%)
- 7 countries < 50% insured

# Percentage of population insured



# Reimbursement issues



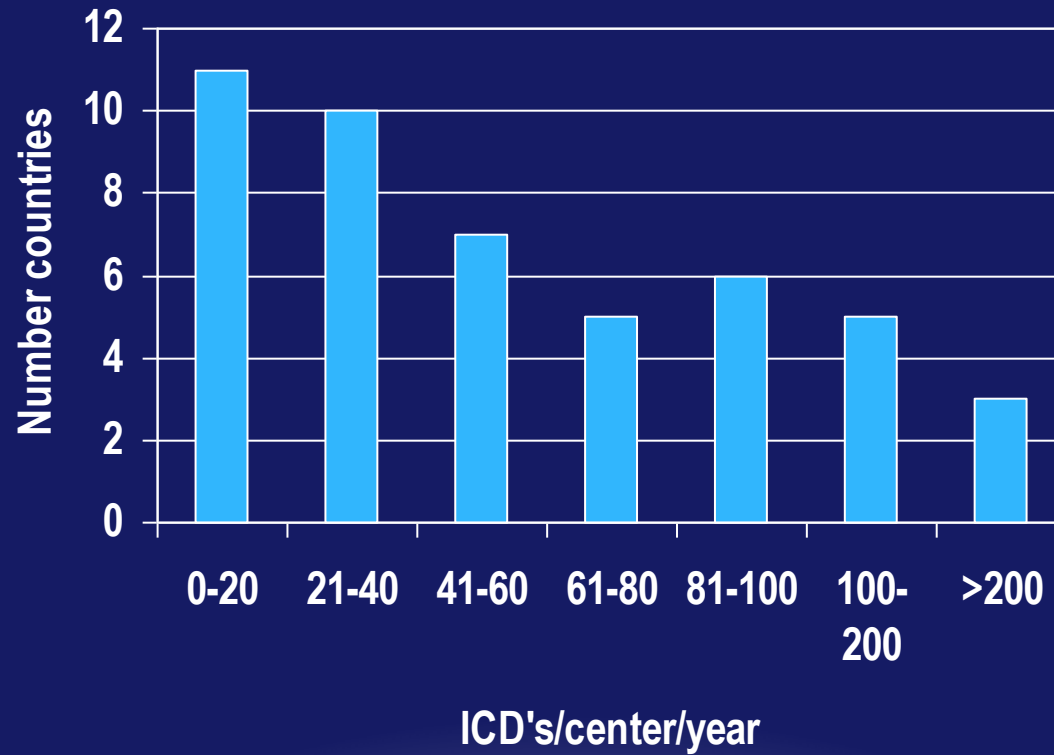
# National regulatory system for EP procedures

- EP procedures restricted to high volume centers vs. no restrictions
- National database for EP procedures – possibility for benchmarking with other EP centers
- Training/CME requirements for electrophysiologists

## ICD volumes

- 1857 ICD centers
- Mean 65 ICD's per center/year
- 112 ICD centers < 20 ICD's per year
- 131 ICD centers > 100 ICD's per year

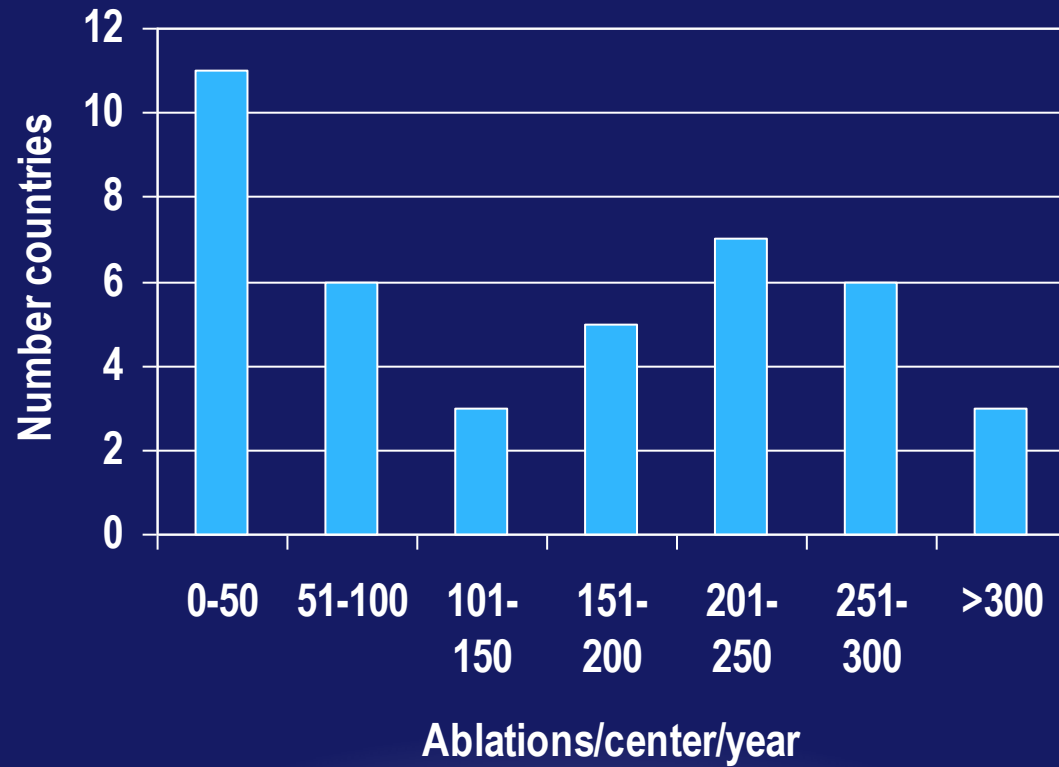
## ICD volumes



# Ablation volumes

- 1021 ablation centers
- Mean 153 ablations per center/year
- 78 ablation centers < 50 ablations per year
- 538 centers > 200 ablations/year

# Ablation volumes



## National database

- 29 countries (66%) ICD database
- 21 countries (48%) ablation database
- 97% of all ICD's in national database
- 68% of all ablations in national database

# Accreditation

- 18 countries (41%) demand EP center accreditation
- 30 countries (68%) demand physician accreditation

# National training programs

- Official fellowships with/without salary
  - No data in EHRA White Book
- National training/teaching availability
- Obligation to participate in EHRA examination

## National training programs

- 16 countries (35%) national accreditation for device therapy and/or invasive electrophysiology
- 2 countries (5%) demand EHRA accreditation
- 5 countries (11%) homologate EHRA accreditation to national certification
- 23 countries (52%) only advise EHRA accreditation
- 4 countries (9%) no national or EHRA accreditation

# ICD implantations in the Netherlands

- Hospitals performing ICD implantation need additional license
- Dutch Health Inspectorate recently handed out additional licenses hoping to decrease ICD prices
- 2007: 16 ICD implanting hospitals
- 2012: 31 ICD implanting hospitals
- How to maintain quality of care?

# ICD implantations in the Netherlands

- In 2009 guideline for ICD implanting hospitals from the Netherlands Society of Cardiology
- Compromise between “have’s” and “have not’s”
- 120 devices, 60 ICD, 20 CRT per year
- 2 implanting cardiologists, each 30 ICD, 20 CRT per year. EHRA or NASPE certified
- 2 technicians, EHRA or NASPE certified
- White list of ICD implanting hospitals, including physical visits

# ICD implantations in the Netherlands

- In 2011: covenant between Netherlands Society of Cardiology and a large insurance company: no reimbursement for hospitals NOT on the White List from beginning of 2012
- Other Insurance companies follow initiative
- Large request for White List placement, all hospitals physical visit
- Now 25 hospitals on the White List (from 31, 81%)
- 7 hospitals “starting center”, not yet enough volume

# Recommendations

- Financial issues: limited influence for cardiologists.
- Negotiate with insurance companies/government body to follow quality guidelines from national cardiological society: WE ARE THE EXPERTS
- ICD/ablation volumes: try to restrict to high volume centers
- Construct national databases: practical help from EURObservational Research Programme?

# Recommendations

- Demand EHRA accreditation, especially when national accreditation not available
- Practical training in selected centers for small groups of fellows?
- EHRA accreditation now only for new electrophysiologists, retrograde recognition for senior electrophysiologist?

Thank you for your attention



# Reimbursement issues

- ICD primary prevention 32 countries (73%)
- ICD secondary prevention 36 (82%)
  - Co-payment 9 countries (20%)
- Ablation 37 (84%)
  - Co-payment 6 countries (14%)
- In 23 countries limited treatment numbers (52%)

## ICD volumes

- 1857 ICD centers
- Mean 65 ICD's per center/year
- 11 countries < 20 ICD's per center/year
- 112 ICD centers < 20 ICD's per year
- 5 countries > 100 ICD's per center/year
- 3 countries > 200 ICD's per center/year
- 131 ICD centers > 100 ICD's per year

# Ablation volumes

- 1021 ablation centers
- Mean 153 ablations per center/year
- 9 countries < 50 ablations per center/year
- 78 ablation centers < 50 ablations per year
- 16 countries > 200 ablations per center/year
- 538 centers > 200 ablations/year