

TABLE 1 : Questions on the use of medicines in European Health Interview Surveys

Survey	Pharmaceutical utilization	Therapeutic groups	General contents
<p>BELGIUM</p> <p>Enquête de santé par interview, Belgique (2001)</p>	<p>Individual:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Did you use medicines during the last 2 weeks? If not, when did you use any medicines for the last time? What type of medicines did you use (25 therapeutic groups) and who prescribed these (GP, specialist, other practitioner)? Did you use non-prescribed medicines during the last two weeks? If not, when did you use them for the last time? What type (18 therapeutic groups) of non-prescribed medicines did you use? For all medicines taken during this period (up to 10) the survey records: name, code CNK, prescribed/ non-prescribed, regularity of the dosage (regularly, temporarily, when required, etc.) <p>Household:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditure in prescribed and non-prescribed medicines (jointly) 	<p><u>Therapeutic groups in (2)</u></p> <p>Cough, flu / Pain relievers for rheumatism and joints / Other pain relievers / Heart and cardiovascular / Vitamins / Cerebral pressure / Diuretics / Laxatives / Stomach, digestive / Sleeping pills / Anti-depressant / Tranquilizers / Antibiotics / Skin problems / Allergy / Asthma / Contraceptive pills / Hormones for menopause / Diabetes / Epilepsy / Parkinson / Medicines for eyes / Medicines to lose weight / Homeopathic medicines / Natural medicines / Others</p> <p><u>Therapeutic groups (4)</u></p> <p>Cough, flu / Pain relievers for rheumatism and joints / Other pain relievers / Heart and cardiovascular / Vitamins / Cerebral pressure / Diuretics / Laxatives / Stomach, digestive / Sleeping pills / Tranquilizers / Skin problems / Allergy / Asthma / Medicines for eyes / Medicines to lose weight/ Homeopathic medicines / Natural medicines / Others</p>	<p>Three questionnaires:</p> <p><u>Household:</u> composition, insurance coverage of members, health expenditures, housing, environment.</p> <p><u>Self-questionnaire</u> (individual of reference): self-perceived health, lifestyles, satisfaction with health services</p> <p><u>Face-to-face questionnaire</u> (individual of reference): health status, health care use, pharmaceutical utilization, socioeconomic variables</p>
<p>DENMARK</p> <p>Danish Health and Morbidity Survey (1994)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do you regularly or continuously take any medicine/drug (i.e. prescribed or OTC, but don't include vitamins, minerals or natural products and contraceptive pills)? Trade name. Within the past 2 weeks have you taken any of the following prescribed or OTC medicine? (11 therapeutic groups) About the use of prescribed medicines: Has anyone instructed you on how to take it? Have you read anything about how to use the prescribed medicine? About the use of OTC medicines: Has anyone instructed you on how to take it? Have you read anything about how to use the OTC medicine? Have you seen any commercials for the OTC medicine you are taking? During the past 2 weeks have you been bothered by any of the complaints listed? (14 health problems). If yes, what did you do? (among the options: "I took prescribed medicines", "I took OTC medicines"). 	<p><u>Therapeutic groups in (2)</u></p> <p>Cough / Asthma / Anti-hypertensives / Heart / Remedies for the skin / Pain relievers for aches and pains in the muscles, bones, tendons or joints / Other kind of pain relievers / Sleeping pills / Laxatives / Sedatives, tranquilizers / Penicillin or other antibiotics</p> <p><u>Complaints that may require medication in (5)</u></p> <p>Pain in shoulder or neck / Pain in back or loin / Pain or discomfort in arms, hands, legs, knees, hips or joints / Headache / Rapid palpitations / Anxiety, nervousness, restlessness and apprehension / Sleeping problems / Melancholy, depression, unhappiness / Fatigue / Stomach ache / Indigestion, diarrhoea, constipation / Eczema, rash, itching / Colds, rhinitis, cough / Breathing difficulties</p>	<p>Two questionnaires:</p> <p><u>Face-to-face interview</u> Socioeconomic variables, health and morbidity, medication, use of health services, use of complementary treatment, physical disability, dental health, external health risks and resources, amount and nature of work, lifestyles.</p> <p><u>Self-administered questionnaire:</u> self-perceived health, attitudes towards health and habits, health education, general considerations about the survey.</p>

TABLE 1: (continued)

Survey	Pharmaceutical utilization	Therapeutic groups	General considerations
<p>ITALY</p> <p>Indagine statistica multiscopo sulle famiglie : Condizione di salute e ricorso ai servizi sanitari (1999-2000)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have you used any medication during the last 2 days? If yes: Medicines were prescribed or non-prescribed? 2. With what frequency do you take the following medicines? (7 therapeutic groups) 3. Does your doctor know you take those medicines? 4. Do you usually check the sell by data of the medicines? Do you usually read instructions? 5. Is there any medicine that has been prescribed to you during the last 4 weeks and that, for any reason, you have not used? 	<p><u>Therapeutic groups in (2)</u></p> <p>Pain relievers / Sedatives or tranquilizers / Sleeping pills / Laxatives / Nasal sprays / Digestive / Vitamins / Others</p>	<p><u>Self-administered questionnaire</u> Health status, disability, smoking habits, consumption of medicines</p> <p><u>Face-to-face interview</u> Household composition, socio-economic variables, demographic variables, health care use, alternative medicine, prevention, housing conditions, physical handicaps of household members.</p>
<p>THE NETHERLANDS</p> <p>Permanent Onderzoek Leefsituatie / Continuous Quality of Life Survey (1998)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did anyone prescribe medication for you during the past 14 days? 2. Did you use the prescribed medication during the past 14 days? 3. When did you use prescribed medication for the last time? 4. What medication was it (17 therapeutic groups)? 5. Who prescribed it? 6. Did you use medication that was bought without prescription during the past 14 days? 7. When did you use medication that was bought without prescription for the last time? 8. What medication was it? (10 therapeutic groups) 	<p><u>Therapeutic groups in (4)</u></p> <p>Pain relievers and medication for fever / For cough, cold, flu, sore throat / Vitamins / Heart, blood vessels, blood pressure / Diuretics / Laxatives / Stomach and intestinal complains; indigestion / Sedatives, tranquilizers; nervous disorders / Antibiotics / Skin / Rheumatism, arthritis / Allergy / Asthma / Contraceptive pills / Hormones / Diabetes / Medication for the eyes / Others</p> <p><u>Therapeutic groups in (8)</u></p> <p>Aspirin / Cough, cold, flu / Vitamins / Heart / Laxatives / Stomach and intestinal complaints; indigestion / Sedatives, tranquilizers; nervous disorders / Skin / Rheumatism, arthritis / Homeopathic medication / Others</p>	<p><u>Face-to-face interview</u></p> <p>Living conditions: experience and valuation of the life situation, some welfare characteristics, demographic and socio-economic variables.</p> <p>Labor conditions: shiftwork, noise, smell, danger, physical strains, workrate, monotony, occupational level, job satisfaction and promotion opportunities</p> <p>Health: perceived health, use of medicine, smoking, alcohol consumption, use of medical facilities,</p>
<p>PORTUGAL</p> <p>Inquérito Nacional de Saúde / National Health Interview Survey (1998-1999)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did you take sleeping pills during the last 2 week? How many days did you take pills? Why? For how long are you taking sleeping pills? 2. Individual expenditure in medicines during the previous 2 weeks 	<p>Only sleeping pills</p>	<p><u>Face-to-face interview</u> Health indicators, nutrition habits, disability, expenditure on health services, use of health services, health insurance, demographic and socio-economic variables</p>

TABLE 1 (continued)

Survey	Pharmaceutical utilization	Therapeutic groups	General considerations
<p>SPAIN</p> <p>Encuesta Nacional de Salud / National Health Survey (1997)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did you use any medication during the last 2 weeks? 2. What medication was this (17 therapeutic groups)? For each medicine: was it prescribed or non-prescribed? 	<p><u>Therapeutic groups in (2)</u></p> <p>Colds, cough, flu / Pain relievers / Vitamins / Laxatives / Antibiotics / Tranquilizers, sedatives, sleeping pills / Allergy / Diarrhoea / Rheumatism / Heart / Blood pressure / Digestive problems / Anti-depressant / Contraceptive pills / Medicines to lose weight / Medicines for cholesterol / For diabetes / Other</p>	<p><u>Face-to-face interview</u></p> <p>Health indicators, lifestyles, disability, expenditure on health services, use of health services, health insurance, demographic and socio-economic variables</p>
<p>ENGLAND</p> <p>Health Survey for England (1999)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For every chronic illness: Are you taken medicines for it? 2. For every doctor visit: did the doctor give a prescription? 3. Currently taking medication prescribed by doctor? 4. Names of prescribed medication (BNF code) 5. Have you taken these drugs in the last 7 days? 6. Are you taking medicines for ... (12 therapeutic uses)? 7. Number of prescribed medicines taken. 	<p><u>Chronic illnesses in (1)</u></p> <p>High blood pressure / Angina / Myocardial infarction or coronary thrombosis / Heart murmur / Abnormal heart rhythm / Other heart trouble / Stroke / Diabetes</p> <p><u>Therapeutic groups in (5)</u></p> <p>Cardio-vascular / Gastrointestinal / Respiratory / CNS medicine / Infection / Endocrine / Gynae-Urinary / Cytotoxic / Medicine for nutrition / Musculoskeletal / Eye or Ear / Skin / Other</p>	<p><u>Face to face interview</u></p> <p>Health indicators, lifestyles, socio-economic variables, parental history, use of health services, heart problems, diabetes, household information on housing, car, income, head of household</p> <p><u>Self-administered survey</u></p> <p>Smoking, drinking, GHG-12, social support, use of contraceptive pill and HRT</p> <p><u>Nurse visit</u></p> <p>Prescribed drugs, vitamin supplements and nicotine replacements. Physical measurements. Saliva and blood samples are analysed.</p>
<p>UNITED KINGDOM</p> <p>General Household Survey</p>	<p>During the last 2 weeks, did the doctor send you a prescription?</p>	<p>None</p>	<p><u>Household questionnaire</u></p> <p>Household composition, housing, consumer durables, migration</p> <p><u>Individual questionnaire</u></p> <p>Employment, education, sickness, use of health and personal social services, smoking, alcohol consumption and leisure activity</p>

TABLE 2: Information on the use of medicines across European Health Interview Surveys

INFORMATION	COUNTRIES*	OBSERVATIONS
<p>During the reference period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did anyone prescribe medication for you? • Did you use medication? 	<p>Reference period: 2 weeks: NE, UK 2 days: IT For every doctor visit: England</p> <p>Reference period: 2 weeks: BE, DK, NE, SP 2 days: IT Current use: DK, England</p>	<p>The Portuguese Inquérito Nacional de Saúde asks for individual expenditure during the reference period.</p>
<p>Type of medicines used during the reference period. Distinction by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed or OTC • Therapeutic groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Symptom-based -Drug-based -Mixture 	<p>BE, DK, IT, NE, SP</p> <p>DK, England (for chronic illnesses)</p> <p>IT, DK, England (only for prescribed medicines)</p> <p>BE, NE, SP</p>	<p>The Health Survey for England focuses on prescribed medicines. The Portuguese Inquérito Nacional de Saúde only asks for consumption of sleeping pills. Therapeutic groups differ among surveys (see Table 4).</p>
Number of medicines	England (only prescribed)	-----
Names of medicines taken	BE (up to 10), DK (for medicines taken continuously), England (only prescribed)	-----
Expenditure	BE (household-level) P (individual-level)	-----
Consumer information (do you read the instructions of medicines?)	DK, IT	-----

* BE: Belgium; DK: Denmark; IT: Italy; NE: The Netherlands; P: Portugal; SP: Spain; UK: United Kingdom