Methods Data were collected from June 2009 to February 2010, from all elementary and junior high schools located in a northern sub-prefecture of Ibaraki, 100 km north of Tokyo (approximate population of 280,000). The information included school name, school address, the enrolment number by school, dates of absences from influenza-like illness (type-A), date of class closure and date of school closure. Impacts of school closure was analysed considering timing of closure, enrolment number, geographical location.

Result All 68 schools responded for study. 8576 out of 23880 (14529 person-months) enrolled school children were infected. We classified these schools into two groups according to date of school closure. The difference of incidence between two groups was estimated with the RR with 95% CI. The incidence rates in the early and late school closure groups were 71.6 and 64.9 (1/1000 person-months), respectively. RR was 1.10 (95% CI 1.05 to 1.15), which was significant.

Conclusion The result would show that the early school closure may have impact to prevent infection number of A/H1N1 influenza.

Is Social Capital in the Workplace Associated with Work-related Injury and Disability? A Systematic Review of the Epidemiologic Literature

Introduction Social capital is defined as resources embedded in social relationships. Social capital in the workplace may include social support, interpersonal trust, respect, and reciprocity, and may occur at both the worker and workplace level. The objective of this study was to determine if social capital in the workplace is associated with work-related injury or disability.

Methods A systematic review of the epidemiologic literature was conducted. Studies were identified from 1990 to 2008 relevant to social capital in the workplace and work-related injury or disability. Identified studies were critically appraised for methodological quality by two qualified independent reviewers. Findings represent a best evidence synthesis of the literature.

Results Sixty-six studies were scientifically reviewed. Forty-two were excluded due to poor methodological quality. The remaining 24 consisted of 14 studies examining the association between social capital in the workplace and work-related injury, eight focused on disability, and two studied both injury and disability. Only two studies included workplace-level social capital, the remaining focused on individual-level worker social capital. Limitations of the literature include unclear social capital, injury and disability definitions, limited study populations, and weak study designs.

Conclusions Limitations preclude stating consistent conclusions. The evidence suggests an association between individual worker social capital and work disability. Group-level social capital may be important in the development of work-related injury and disability. We summarised the literature, highlighted its strengths and weaknesses, and provided suggestions for future work.

A Prospective Mixed Methods Cohort Study to Assess Ethnic Inequities in Patient Safety in Dutch Hospital Care

Introduction USA studies showed an increased risk of patient safety incidents in hospital care among ethnic minorities, but in Europe ethnic disparities in patient safety have never been analysed. The present study aims to 1. Assess the risk of patient safety events in patients of non-western ethnic origin in comparison to Dutch patients 2. Analyse the determinants of the risk of adverse events in patients of non-western ethnic origin, and 3. Explore causal mechanisms in patient-provider interaction.

Methods Prospective mixed methods cohort study in four hospitals. In total, 2000 patients (1000 Dutch, 1000 of any non-Western ethnic origin, age range 45–75 years) will be included. Data on explanatory variables (eg, Dutch language proficiency, health literacy, education, religion) are collected at admission. After discharge, a two-stage medical record review study, based on a Dutch record review study, is conducted by experienced reviewers to determine the incidence of adverse events. Determinants will be analysed by multilevel multivariable stepwise logistic regression. Mechanisms in the care process will be explored in qualitative interviews with patients and providers.

Results Recruitment has started in December, 2010 and will continue for 24 months. Presently, 50 patients were recruited. By August, preliminary data and practical lessons from data collection will be available.

Association of Distances to Urban Green Spaces and Open Sport Spaces with Physical Activity in Teenagers of Porto, Portugal

Introduction The result showed that the early school closure may have impact to prevent infection number of A/H1N1 influenza.