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1st protocol for diabetes treatment nationwide issued

THE first protocol on the diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of Egyptian diabetics nationwide has been issued, Dr Salah el Ghazali Harb , member of the National Committee for Diabetes, announced at a press conference held in Cairo recently to mark World Diabetes Day .

The protocol which was drawn up by professors of diabetes in the country, in accordance with world guidelines, will be generalised throughout hospitals and medical centres that are frequented by diabetics. It should contribute to discovering diabetics who have not yet been diagnosed as well as pre-diabetic cases in accordance with the plan of the National Committee of Diabetics (NCD) to control the disease.

In this domain, the NCD, in collaboration with a pharmaceutical company, began a campaign five years ago to raise awareness of diabetes. The campaign, entitled, "Control of Diabetes," made a great many people aware of the risks of diabetes and means of preventing its complications.

According to Dr Ibrahim Al Abrashi, Professor of Endocrinology, Cairo University, stressed the importance of continued medical education

for junior doctors in the various governorates in the proposed unification of treatment techniques.

There was also, he said, a need to improve the competence of doctors who are dealing with diabetics through training in how to diagnose the disease and acquainting them with the latest treatment techniques for diabetes types1 and 2.

Dr Hisham el-Hefnawi , Director of the Diabetes Institute, said that the funds allocated to diabetes treatment were less than those allocated to treat its complications, though the prevailing rate of diabetes in the country represents a major problem that could reach pandemic proportions.

Egypt now occupies the ninth position globally in terms of the number of diabetics it has, and is a candidate for the seventh position by the year 2035 when the number of diabetics could, it is estimated, reach 12 million patients.

Dr el-Hefnawi pointed out that the NCD had launched a number of campaigns nationwide to raise awareness for the early detection of the disease and provide diabetics with the necessary medications within the frame work of a plan to limit diabetes and evaluate therapeutic services available to the patients.