



European Brain Injury Consortium

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Antwerp, Dec 2010

Letter of Endorsement

At the meeting of 8th November 2010 the **Executive Committee of the European Brain Injury Consortium (EBIC)** was unanimous in endorsing the proposed **Common Data Elements** (www.tbi-impact.org) for data collection in TBI.

EBIC has a longstanding experience in the design and conduct of observational studies and clinical trials in TBI, and has come to recognize the paramount importance of standardizing procedures for data collection and coding.

Collaboration among investigators, centers, countries and disciplines is essential to advancing the care for TBI. It is then vital that we speak "the same language". The proposed standardization will facilitate comparisons between studies and encourage high-quality meta-analyses of individual patient data. The tremendous potential of this approach has been demonstrated by the IMPACT studies. Standardization while highly desirable from a scientific viewpoint, also improves cost efficiency substantially by obviating the need for repeated development of case report forms for new studies.

The Executive wishes to emphasize their perception of the value of a structured three-tier system for recording data of increasing detail (basic, intermediate and advanced) which is deliberately designed to collapse to the level below allowing consistent future comparisons between studies. Inevitably, different study genres will require varying intensities of data recording and EBIC recommends that these tiers should therefore not be classified as representing relative levels of importance since weight will vary between studies. Rather, EBIC suggests every study use the common data elements to record appropriate data from relevant tiers that would be considered of core, additional and supplementary importance to that specific study.

EBIC would greatly appreciate the opportunity to participate in the suggested process of refining and improving on the proposed common data elements.

Signed on behalf of the European Brain Injury Consortium,

Prof David Menon
Co- chairman

Prof Gordon Murray
Co- chairman

Dr. Mark Dearden
Company Secretary

15/12/2010