Reducing Disparities in Diabetes Care and Improving the Health of People with Diabetes

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 13% of adults age 20 and older and nearly one-third of persons 65 years and older have diabetes in the United States. The statistics for racial and ethnic minorities and people living in rural areas are even more startling.

Given these statistics, it’s surprising that less than half of people with diabetes have not had any form of education about their disease. Through free diabetes self-management classes, the Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network hopes to change that. Through the Everyone with Diabetes Counts (EDC) program, funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), we coordinate and promote in-depth diabetes education classes to thousands of Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes in Delaware, Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

How We Can Help

Through partnerships with health care providers and community stakeholders, Quality Insights can:

- Provide train-the-trainer programs to increase the numbers of Certified Diabetes Educators (CDEs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs)
- Facilitate the development of training sites in our five states
- Identify opportunities to educate providers on Diabetes Self-Management Education
- Introduce the Tomorrow’s HealthCare™ platform to reduce in disparities in diabetes care
What We Can Achieve Together

These and other activities are designed to unite stakeholders with a shared vision of improved diabetes self-management and to achieve broad goals, including:

- Improving HbA1c, lipid, blood pressure and weight control outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes
- Decreasing the number of people who require lower extremity amputations due to complications resulting from poorly controlled diabetes
- Improving the health literacy of people with diabetes who have Medicare and/or Medicaid
- Promoting best practices for clinical guidelines related to HbA1c, lipids, and eye exams
- Becoming a Certified Diabetes Center
- Increasing the number of Certified Diabetes Educators (CDEs) in each state

Get Involved

Quality Insights is at the forefront of reducing disparities in diabetes care in our five-state region. Please consider joining us in this important project. You can help in the following ways:

- Promote healthy behaviors to prevent, delay and treat diabetes while educating patients on the basics of diabetes and what it means for their health.
- Encourage practices to promote A1C and lipids tests, as well as eye exams, foot exams, and weight and blood pressure management.
- Promote the Everyone with Diabetes Counts project as well as a broader public awareness of diabetes and diabetes education.
- Assist with recruiting Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes to attend diabetes self-management classes.
- Suggest community health workers for “train-the-trainer” sessions so that we can continue to sustain the improvements made over time.

For more information about the EDC program, please contact Natalie Tappe, Regional Task Lead, at (800) 642-8686 ext. 3226 or ntappe@wvmi.org.

About Quality Insights

Quality Insights is the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for Delaware, Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. We collaborate with providers and the community on multiple, data-driven quality initiatives to improve patient safety, reduce harm, and improve clinical care locally and across the network. For more information on Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network, please visit our website at www.qualityinsights-qin.org.