

The Big Three of ADE:

Diabetes Agents



- ✓ The rate of diabetes in people age 65 and older is high at 25.2%; 12 million seniors have diabetes (including those that are undiagnosed)¹
- ✓ A recent study showed diabetes agents were implicated in over 19% of all adverse drug event related ED visits among those 65 years of age or older²
- ✓ Severe hypoglycemia is associated with a significant increase in the adjusted risks of major macrovascular events, major microvascular events, and mortality³

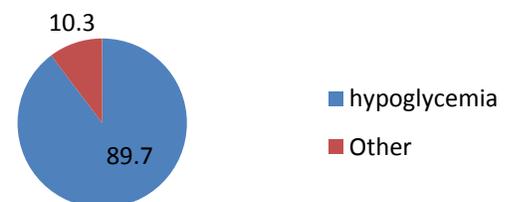
How Can You Partner With Your Patients to Improve Safety?

Implement use of a simple screening tool with each encounter to assess adherence, potential risks and adverse events – questions to ask patients include:

- ✓ How do you take this medication? Have you missed or doubled-up on any doses?
- ✓ Do you monitor your blood sugar regularly?
- ✓ Have you changed your exercise and/or eating habits recently? Have you been ill?
- ✓ Changes in medications or dosage (drugs stopped or started, including OTC or supplements)

Diabetes drugs most commonly involved in ADEs include insulin, metformin, glipizide, glyburide and glimepiride, making up 5 of the top 15 agents contributing to ADEs²

Types of ADEs from Diabetes Agents (%)



How Can You Partner at the System Level to Improve Safety?

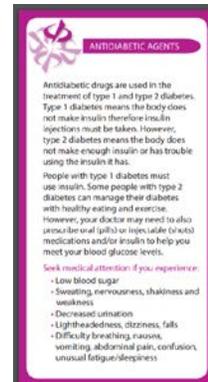
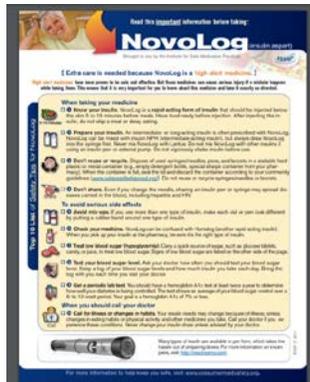
Implement best practices for population management and individualized communication:

- ✓ Update clinical decision software to reflect the most current knowledge about diabetes agents, dosing and potential drug interactions
- ✓ Have processes in place for optimization of drug therapy, referral for diabetes education, HbA1c monitoring, and communication and documentation of critical values to providers
- ✓ Perform regular medication reconciliation to insure patient safety
- ✓ Identify if patient has a designated caregiver and communicate with that person about patients' medications and instructions
- ✓ Use a communication tool (e.g. SBAR) for warm handoffs during care transitions

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2017. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services; 2017.
2. Shehab N, et al. US Emergency Department Visits for Outpatient Adverse Drug Events, 2013-2014. JAMA 2016; 316(20):2115-25. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27893129>
3. Unger, Jeff, Uncovering undetected hypoglycemic event, Diabetes Metab Syndr Obes; 2012; 5(57-74). Available from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3340111/>

Diabetes Agents: Resources

Visit Quality Insights' website to download resources, including the [Big Three of ADE Toolkit](#) which includes many valuable tools like diabetes medication references, clinical teach back cards, blood sugar guidelines and many more.



For additional tools, news and event info, visit our [My Quality Insights](#) learning platform