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Increasing HGBA1c Point of Care Testing in a Federally Qualified Health Center Setting

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The incidence of diabetes in the United States is approximately 30.3 million people. Diabetes is likely the third leading cause of death in the United States. Diabetes is a disease fraught with serious complications. Cardiovascular disease, retinal damage, blindness, kidney failure and neuropathy are common sequelae of persistently elevated blood sugar levels. Glycated hemoglobin (HGBA1c) analysis is critical to the evaluation of long-term glycemic control. The information gleaned from a single measurement is invaluable for the diagnosis of diabetes, diabetes disease management and is a prognosticator of disease progression. The American Diabetes Association recommends routine HGBA1c testing for all diabetic patients. The integration of point-of-care testing HGBA1c testing into comprehensive diabetes care has been demonstrated to improve clinical outcomes. An evidence-based quality improvement project was implemented. The goal of this quality improvement project was to increase point-of-care HGBA1c testing rates in underserved populations who are at high risk for both the development of diabetes and the devastating consequences of persistent hyperglycemia.

Results: HGBA1c point-of-Care testing utilization increased by 5.7% over the three-month study period

Keywords: Diabetes Mellitus, HGBA1c, Point of Care Testing

Biography:

Dempsey is a Specialist Professor at Monmouth University, located in W. Long Branch NJ. Dr. Dempsey received her BSN from Monmouth University, her MS from Rutgers University and her DNP from Quinnipiac University. Dr. Dempsey has practiced as an Advanced Practice Nurse for the past twenty-five years. Dr. Dempsey's clinical areas of expertise include emergency and primary care. Dr. Dempsey is a member of Sigma Theta Tau and was recently recognized by Lambda Delta as Community Educator of the Year. Dr. Dempsey's areas of scientific inquiry include pediatric immunization and diabetes care management.