

[P-300R] Effect of medical record checklists on glycemic control and preventative care measures in patients with diabetes mellitus

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Complications associated with diabetes are costly in terms of both financial burden and, more importantly, diminished quality of life. It is presumed that these complications and subsequent costs can be minimized if diabetes is tightly controlled as well as managed in a comprehensive fashion. Clinical trials have demonstrated the significance of tight glycemic control in the management of patients with diabetes. Both morbidity and mortality are decreased as the progression of macrovascular and microvascular complications commonly associated with diabetes is postponed and/or eliminated. Current preventative care measures established by the American Diabetes Association include glycosylated hemoglobin testing, lipid and proteinuria screening, ophthalmic and podiatry exams as well as the initiation of low dose aspirin, unless contraindicated. In an effort to provide optimal diabetes care, a diabetes management initiative was developed and implemented at the Veterans Affairs Chicago Health Care System (VACHCS). The initiative incorporated the recommendations of the American Diabetes Association into a Diabetes Management Checklist. This checklist accompanied patient charts with a diabetes diagnosis and a pending General Medicine Clinic appointment. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the existing level of diabetes care at VACHCS, to assess the effectiveness of the Diabetes Management Checklist in promoting comprehensive diabetes care, and to launch an interdisciplinary campaign against diabetes. Computer generated patient data was collected, evaluated, and compared with baseline data. This initiative is currently in progress; however, preliminary results are encouraging and suggest that the Diabetes Management Checklist is effective in advancing diabetes wellness.