LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
- SHREVEPORT

DIABETES EDUCATOR

Purpose:
To define the roles of the Registered Nurse (RN) Diabetes Educator and the Registered Dietitian (RD) Diabetes Educator in the education of patients with diabetes in the inpatient and outpatient setting.

Policy:
1. A consult by a physician or nurse is required for Diabetes Educator Services.

2. Inpatient Consults– General Care Areas
   a. The Patient Care Services (PCS) Diabetes Educator will be consulted for patients being admitted with newly diagnosed diabetes, diabetic ketoacidosis, hyperglycemic, hyperosmolar coma, uncontrolled diabetes, profound hypoglycemia in a known diabetic patient, pregnancy with diabetes, initiation of insulin therapy, any patient that the nurse or physician identifies a diabetes education deficit, and patients on an insulin pump.

   b. The PCS RD Diabetes Educator will be consulted for nutrition education for adult patients with new onset diabetes and all pediatric patients with diabetes. The PCS RN, CDE may provide this education if the RD, CDE is unavailable.

3. Outpatient Consults
   The PCS Diabetes Educator will receive consults from Ambulatory Care Clinics for adult and pediatric diabetes education needs. The Diabetes Educator will set up an appointment for the individual patient. During working hours the Diabetes Educator can be called at 57389 or 32381 or paged on beeper #1808 or 3741 if there is an urgent need for outpatient diabetes education.

4. The Diabetes Educator will instruct patients on the following as appropriate:
   a. Adult Diabetic Patient: Basic explanation of diabetes, diabetes nutrition education and/or reinforcement of diabetes nutrition instruction by RD, medications as per physician order, insulin therapy as per physician order, blood glucose monitoring, hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia, long-term and short-term complications, exercise, sick day management, infection prevention and pregnancy, foot care, weight loss/exercise guidelines, alcohol guidelines, carbohydrate counting, meal planning, label reading, fast food/dining out guidelines, family support, and infection prevention.

   b. Pediatric Diabetic Patient: Explanation of Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes, insulin therapy as per physician order, sharps disposal, hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia signs and symptoms and treatment, use of glucagons pen, diabetic ketoacidosis, urine ketone checks, sick day rules, reinforcement of dietary guidelines, carbohydrate counting, meal planning, label reading, fast food/dining out guidelines, exercise guidelines, blood glucose monitoring, when to call the physician about blood glucose results, medical ID, instructions for home, carbohydrate to insulin ratio, infection prevention, and pediatric booklet appropriate for age.

   c. A RD Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) who has demonstrated through certification testing the potential ability to instruct patients on the following, diabetes oral medication therapy, insulin therapy, use and administration of glucagon, use of blood glucose monitoring equipment. In order to instruct patients on these skills in the outpatient setting an RD CDE must demonstrate validated competency. The competency validation must be done by a qualified (RN CDE)
observer with the knowledge, skills, and ability to perform the procedures as well as appropriate
documentation of the competency validation in the RD CDE file. The RD CDE may not
administer or oversee the administration of any medications (including normal saline) to any
patient.

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Administrator

4/18/12

Date

Approved by Clinical Board:  9/16/08, 4/17/12
Written: 6/08
Revised: 4/12
Reviewed: 4/12