Driving Healthier Communities through Diabetes Management
Diabetes is a significant public health emergency that continues to grow, especially among underserved communities of color. Type 2 diabetes outcomes in communities of color have historically been plagued with persistent disparities. These disparities are worsened by significant barriers to social determinants of health, and implicit bias or systemic racism from healthcare professionals, causing mistrust in medical systems and information.

Experiencing serious co-morbidities, such as heart and kidney disease, limited access and/or connected to primary care, poor adherence, and as a result, repeated episodes of costly hospitalization are common among people of color who are affected by type 2 diabetes.

With rates of diabetes and related complications more common and quickly rising among people of color, the need to address disparities and improve equity in access to care is more urgent than ever. Clinical teams can effectively address these issues and improve diabetes management through proven and straightforward strategies.

Health system leaders point to lessons learned from COVID-19 vaccination

1. Increased awareness of racial and ethnic disparities nationwide
2. The growing importance and use of public health data and resources to guide action and results
3. The power of health systems and clinical practices to rapidly implement big changes
4. Patient and community engagement is key to success
A simple, effective framework to improve diabetes management

Clinicians understand the importance of comprehensive and consistent diabetes management. Promoting healthy lifestyle changes and medication adherence, contributing to patient education, and combatting misinformation and fears are all strategies that can aid patients in successful self-management of type 2 diabetes. However, there are widening disparities of diabetes disease burden among racial and ethnic populations and new approaches to care are needed to address these challenges.

SHC’s Driving Real Improvement in Value and Equity (DRIVE) Toolkit provides easy-to-use tools that can help clinicians improve diabetes management for all patients. Quality improvement project templates, workflow guides, results tracking charts and patient resources are among the online and free resources. Hundreds of clinicians nationwide have applied these tools with significant success.

SHC can help you identify strategies that best suit your health system and practices, with expert coaching and financial assistance to implement strategies that improve diabetes management.

“The SHC Diabetes Toolkit is an extremely detailed, comprehensive resource to guide evidence-based approaches I can utilize for my patient care, education and empowerment. By linking my care and education to the detailed resources in the Toolkit, I expect greater diabetes control and reduction in disparate outcomes. The multiple links also provide a one-stop approach to accessing the best evidence.”

Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA, FASPC, FNLA | Tulane University School of Medicine

“The DRIVE Toolkit has been instrumental in providing a framework for the development of our NOLA Diabetes Project in New Orleans, LA. The Toolkit afforded guidance to properly design a team of community leaders or DRIVE Champions, lay-persons and health providers and guide them to learn about the impact of type 2 diabetes in our community; to become aware of the barriers perpetuating disparate health outcomes; plan intervention activities; and value the importance of collecting data to assess program impact. The Toolkit also provided a roadmap to navigate accessible resources that offer useful information for our diabetes education program. This novel publication has been beneficial for our team, and the NOLA Diabetes Project will continue to incorporate the DRIVE Toolkit as we develop and implement our community intervention program.”

Daphne Ferdinand, PhD, RN | Executive Director, Healthy Heart Community Prevention Project, Inc.

The National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF)’s Center for Sustainable Health Care Quality and Equity (SHC) has tools and support for clinical teams and health systems serving people of color.

Contact shc@nmqf.org for more information about how we can support your efforts.

*The DRIVE Toolkit was developed by the Center for Sustainable Health Care Quality and Equity (SHC), a subsidiary of the National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF).*