

TEAM-BASED CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES WITHIN PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS: FAMILY PHYSICIANS' PERSPECTIVES

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INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Interprofessional teams are an integral part of primary care in Canada.
- ❑ One of the key objectives of interprofessional teams is the management of patients with chronic conditions, such as type 2 diabetes mellitus.
- ❑ For type 2 diabetes patients, a team-based care approach has been shown to :
 - ❑ decrease emergency room visits
 - ❑ decrease hospitalizations
- ❑ Information is lacking on team practices, processes, and factors that facilitate or hinder the care of adult patients with type 2 diabetes within primary care settings in Canada.

OBJECTIVE

- ❑ To explore family physician's perspectives on interprofessional team-based practices, processes, medication management, and factors that facilitate or hinder team-based care in the treatment of patients with type 2 diabetes.

METHODS

Semi-Structured Interviews

Descriptive qualitative approach employing face-to-face and telephone interviews. Interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim.

Participants

Family physicians who are associated with a Primary Care Network (PCN) in the Edmonton area.

Content Analysis

Interview transcripts were subjected to content analysis, in which categories were developed inductively.

Interview questions addressed physicians' perspectives on working within an interprofessional team and facilitators and barriers to team-based care

RESULTS

- ❑ To date, 15 individual interviews have been conducted and recruitment is ongoing.
- ❑ 8 males and 7 females.
- ❑ Age range 33-62 years; average age 43 years.
- ❑ Years in practice 1-34; average 11 years.
- ❑ Preliminary findings indicate that there are both facilitators and barriers to medication management and type 2 diabetes within a team based setting.

Facilitators

Onsite access to allied health professionals.

Functions within the electronic medical record

Barriers

Conflicting information from different health professionals

Lack of continuity of patient care

Overall, physicians perceived that a team-based approach in the treatment and medication management of type 2 diabetes care provides additional benefits to patient care including improved chronic disease management, enhanced opportunities for patient education and improved clinical outcomes.



CONCLUSION

- ❑ The findings of the study provide important insights into the coordination and collaboration of interprofessional teams within primary care settings and guide improvements in the care of patients with type 2 diabetes.

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