

DIABETES PATIENT EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Purpose

The purpose of this training program is to assist multidisciplinary teams from community hospitals to develop high quality diabetes patient education programs or to improve existing programs. The focus of Diabetes Patient Education Program Development (DPEPD) is on the process of program development, with special emphasis on the unique history, characteristics, constraints, and advantages which apply to the participating hospital.

Process

Interested participants initially contact the Virginia Center for Diabetes Professional Education at the University of Virginia to discuss the appropriateness of DPEPD. A site visit by the Director of the Virginia Center for Diabetes Professional Education to the hospital is scheduled in order to provide the hospital's planning committee with an opportunity to discuss the DPEPD training process. Participants on the hospital planning committee generally include representatives from medicine, nursing, dietary, social services, and administration. Following the meeting, a decision is made by the planning committee to either pursue or not pursue DPEPD. If an affirmative decision is made, goals and an agenda for training are negotiated, the makeup of the multidisciplinary team is agreed upon, and a time for a visit to the Diabetes Center by the participants is selected. A typical agenda for DPEPD is a day and a half in length. It includes developing a program mission statement, setting goals, objectives, action steps, and timelines for program development, identifying roles and responsibilities of team members, and brainstorming solutions to program development barriers. The Virginia Center for Diabetes Professional Education staff facilitate the group discussion process and provide information to participants based on their knowledge of national trends in diabetes patient education and existing models for diabetes patient education programs. Small group discussions between participants and their professional counterparts at UVA can be arranged to provide information and consultation on more specific issues such as curriculum development and sources of educational materials.

Outcomes, Evaluation and Follow-up

At the conclusion of DPEPD, participants will have developed a written mission statement for their program, goals and objectives which are consistent with the mission, and a time line for program development with assigned responsibilities. The value and effectiveness of the training is assessed through a participant questionnaire and an evaluation of the program's impact on patients, once the program is in operation. The Virginia Center for Diabetes Professional Education maintains follow-up contact with participating hospitals to assess whether the goals and objectives identified through the consultation process have been achieved. Other professional training programs provided by the Virginia Center for Diabetes Professional Education are offered as adjuncts to DPEPD to facilitate ongoing program development.