



Endocrinology + Primary Care Practices Care Coordination Projects

Endocrine Consultants of Mid Michigan

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Early Referral to Endocrinology

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The Challenge

Identify and treat type 2 diabetes as early as possible.

Root Causes

- 1. PCP tries to manage diabetes without involving specialty at the onset. This delays reducing of the A1c quickly. PCP is not able to meet quality requirements with in the measuring period.
- 2. PCP practices are bombarded with Prior Authorizations and can miss specific criteria allowing payors to reject essential tools in disease management.
- 3. PCP are the first point of contact with the healthcare system. They are overwhelmed with managing all conditions that patients are presenting with. Patients with diabetes require a lot of patient education that PCP do not have the time to address. Early referrals help to provide assistance in that regard.

Importance

Early detection allows for effective treatment plans to be enacted quicker to achieve effective long term results quickly.

Goals

We set up the goal for PCP to refer patients with type 2 diabetes to Endocrinologist immediately post diagnosis. Endocrinologist was able to attack the disease aggressively earlier. Their goals were to lower A1c and stabilize the number and establish a management protocol for PCP to follow with in 6 months.

Current State

We have noticed a recognizable improvement in patient outcomes. PCP are meeting their quality metrics more effectively.

Barriers

We need lobbying of payors to streamline the approval process for tools needed in disease management.

Results

Average A1c values at 6.2 for the practice

Recommendations

Use our example for other practices struggling to meet their quality requirements.

