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Situation Analysis

For patients with type 2 diabetes, the risk of cardiovascular disease is twice that of the nondiabetic population. Disparities exist in disease prevalence and outcome, particularly among Black patients. A pilot program made up of diabetic patients with heart disease at Atlantic Health System revealed that 75% of diabetic patients are Black, and 45% of those patients (25 of 52) demonstrated suboptimal diabetic control.

Project Goals



Increase use of glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RA) and/or sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitors (SGLT2i) by 4% among eligible diabetic patients with cardiovascular disease each quarter at one of Atlantic Health System's outpatient practices.



Evaluate medication use with monthly electronic medical record reporting and data mining, implement population-focused scheduling to optimize touches and track Epic reports and/or virtual diabetes visits among the population.

Actions Taken

- Formed a cross-functional team including primary care physician, nurse, diabetic educator, pharmacist and specialists — such as a nephrologist — as needed.
- By working cross-functionally, the care team identified patients who needed laboratory studies and routine diabetic management encounters.
- Patients received diabetic education and evaluations by health care specialists as needed.

Positive Outcomes

- Within one quarter, 48% of participating patients experienced a drop in A1C levels.
- 50% of patients with A1C > 9 experienced a decrease in levels as well.
- 26% of patients eligible for SGLT2i and GLP-1RA started the therapies.

For detailed information, visit:

www.aha.org/center/next-generation-leaders-fellowship