

Comprehensive diabetes education for Care Home Staff: Analysing the safety and financial impact from the CARES national diabetes education programme upon health and social care

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Background:

People with diabetes living in a care home setting or housebound have higher prevalence of complications and hospital admission. Eden has previously identified that diabetes education to care staff has a positive impact for service users with diabetes and reduces their risk of emergency care. This led to a hypothesis that nationally provided diabetes education would result in reduced hospital admissions and cost saving for health and social care.

Aim:

Provide diabetes education across the UK, enhancing care staff knowledge and confidence, to reduce hospital admissions, reliance upon community nursing support and cost.

Methods:

All participants undertook a learning journey via an **online platform** which consisted of:

- > a short recorded lesson
- > 3 (three) eLearning modules and
- > a group mentoring session.

To identify if the project aims had been met, each participant completed a pre and post audit questionnaire.

Results:

29 participants initially completed the programme: (see figure 1)

- ✔ Self Assessment showed improvement in several knowledge areas with the majority wanting to share and cascade this knowledge
- ✔ Care Planning and Footcare was a common theme for improving diabetes care
- ✔ The use of hypo boxes within these settings was also a priority for over half of the attendees



Disclosures

The project was sponsored by Sanofi, who had not input into the content of the education, printed workbooks or self directed learning



Figure 1: Pre-Post Knowledge & Confidence results from the first 29 Participants to complete the programme.

Audit Component	Pre Course	Post course
Mean average knowledge and confidence out of 5 (0 = poor 5 = very good)	2.96	4.26
Daily community nurse visitations to administer insulin	19	14
Delayed insulin administrations	3	2
Diabetes medication errors	4	2
GP / ambulance call outs for a diabetes issue	10	12
Diabetes related hospitals admission	4	3
Care Homes with a hypo box	12	18
Yearly cost saving >£55,000 based on the audit responses		



Conclusions:

The initial undertaking of CARES has highlighted that diabetes education in care homes:

- ✔ Increased knowledge and confidence
- ✔ Reduced hospital admissions
- ✔ Reduced community nurse support
- ✔ Had financial savings

