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TITLE

Gila River Health
Care (GRHC)
Diabetes Care
Program (DCP)—A
Team Based
Approach to
Improve Diabetes
Care and Prevent
Cardiovascular
Disease (CVD)

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The purpose of the GRHC diabetes care program is to improve diabetes care by ▲ implementing a team-based and electronic health record (EHR) assisted approach to controlling the ABCS and addressing the 11 National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) parameters for excellence in diabetes care. GRHC provides care to nearly 6000 diabetics with Type 2 diabetes. Based on numerous published studies showing improved or decreased CVD complications, NCQA recommends controlling A1C (A), blood pressure (B), LDL cholesterol (C), and smoking (S), and routinely examining the eyes, feet, and kidneys of diabetic patients. Despite the proven health benefits of the NCQA recommendations, they are achieved in less than 15% of US diabetics. By implementing a team-based approach using the EHR, algorithms, templates, and reminders GRHC has achieved the NCQA required 75 points for certification of these goals within 3 months in 245 patients and has maintained these certification requirements for an additional 10 months. This compares to only a 45 point total in diabetics not in the program. Our study shows that a team-based approach allows providers to achieve NCQA Certification requirements by 1) designing team care based on the Chronic Care Model, 2) using the EHR as an essential success tool, and 3) using the DeepSee program for automated retrieval of data from the Resource Patient Management System data base for evaluation of and action on outcomes.