



# THE DIABETES INTERVENTION TOOLKIT

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## Introduction

The purpose of the *Diabetes Interventions Toolkit* is to provide **examples** of resources and tools that have been used successfully by clinicians, diabetes educators, peer review organizations, managed care organizations and others to improve care. The *Taking on Diabetes* initiative does not specifically endorse any of the enclosed tools. If you wish to use or reproduce any tool, please contact the organization that created the tool for permission. A list of contributors to the *Diabetes Interventions Toolkit* is contained in the Acknowledgments section.

Successful quality improvement efforts usually incorporate, in a coordinated way, multiple interventions. For example, many organizations have initiated the use of diabetes documentation flow sheets. The objectives of these flow sheets are to remind providers of the types of screening and monitoring tests and examinations that are needed and provide an efficient format for documentation.

If a health care organization mails flow sheets to physicians and asks them to use the sheets for their diabetic patients, the intervention will probably fail. However, if the health care organization wins the support of a physician opinion leader who agrees to help develop a plan for team training and coordination and present the plan to other physicians, then the intervention is more likely to succeed. The plan may call for an office nurse to perform a preliminary foot exam, review the flow sheet, and inform the physician which tests should be ordered. The opinion leader would also point out that this system means that physician schedules remain efficient, while patient care quality is improved in a way that can easily be documented.

In the “Models for Improvement” section, there are several examples of integrating tools into improvement intervention activities. The settings of these interventions include primary care offices, managed care organizations, and a Veterans Affairs medical center.

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