

Stand UP to Diabetes

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Ontario Diabetes Strategy

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Dear Family Physician:

We are writing to update you on important initiatives related to the new Ontario Diabetes Strategy. We know physicians are working tirelessly to help patients with diabetes live their best and most fulfilling lives, and we thank you. The Diabetes Strategy aims to further assist patients and providers in both the prevention of this disease and its enhanced management. The Strategy seeks to help make evidence based investments in initiatives across the disease continuum.

One of the first investments is in tools to support family physicians in your efforts to care for patients with diabetes and their families.

Diabetes Testing Report

The Testing Report is the results of the Baseline Diabetes Dataset Initiative (BDDI), an exercise which identifies when adult Ontarians with diabetes have last had three key diabetes tests. The aggregate Testing Reports will be provided to all family physicians with information about three key diabetes tests and their recommended frequency:

- HbA1C test (blood glucose) within 6 months;
- LDL-C test (cholesterol) within 1 year; and
- A retinal eye exam within 2 years.

Between May 11 and May 25, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will forward you a list of patients with diabetes linked to your practice based on your actual or virtual roster. You will be asked to confirm whether these patients are yours, and whether these patients have diabetes. The mailing will also allow you to see how your practice compares to other practices in your Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and across the province. Physicians will be compensated for providing validated patient lists to the Ministry. Details about the reports and compensation will be sent to you this week..

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In June, the Ministry will distribute individualized Detailed Diabetes Testing Reports to physicians who have validated their patient list. This Detailed Testing Report will provide you with a list of the last date your patients received their A1C, LDL and retinal exam tests, as well as updated information about your LHIN and the province.

To ensure the appropriate protection of personal health information of patients, the Ministry will provide information to patients on how to opt out by calling ServiceOntario at 1-800-291-1405, TTY: 1-800-387-5559. The notice is being advertised in local papers and is attached for your reference. Please use this document as a support to your discussions with your patients, if appropriate.

Physicians who do not participate in June will continue to receive updated aggregate information and opportunities to receive detailed testing reports later in the year.

Provider and Patient Tools

To assist newly diagnosed patients manage their care, the Ministry has developed a toolkit: “**Diabetes and You**”. This kit contains fact sheets on diabetes, tips for healthy eating and physical activity, how to manage blood glucose levels, insulin and foot care, and much more. The kit also contains DVDs with inspiring testimonials from individuals with managing diabetes.

The kits can be ordered directly by your patient or through your office by serviceontario.ca/publications or by calling the Service Ontario Contact Centre at 416-326-5300, 416-325-3408 (TTY), 1-800-668-9938 Toll-free or at 1-800-268-7095 TTY Toll-free.

Diabetes Education Teams

With the objective of supporting Ontarians with Diabetes, the Ministry has funded the creation of 51 new Diabetes Education Teams, including 11 in Aboriginal communities. An additional 53 Teams will be added across the province over the next two years. For more information on the Diabetes Education Program and how to refer your patients, please visit the health care provider section of our website www.ontario.ca/diabetes.

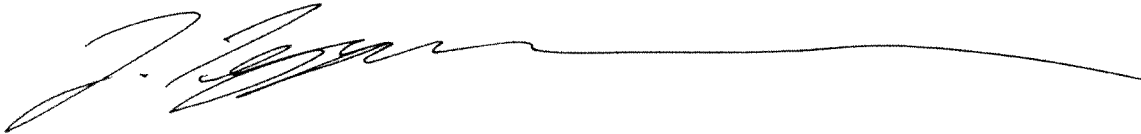
Regional Coordination Centres

The Ministry is also in the process of implementing up to 14 Diabetes Regional Coordination Centres. Regional Coordination Centres will be hosted within existing provider organizations and will be responsible for the coordination and alignment of diabetes services across the spectrum of care, but will not provide direct patient care.

These Centres will be accountable to the Ministry and will work collaboratively with LHINs and service providers to identify the range of services available across each LHIN, determine service needs and gaps and strategies to address them, and provide tools and resources to support integration of best practices leading to enhanced patient outcomes.

For more information on the Ontario Diabetes Strategy or to receive the Ontario Diabetes Strategy newsletter, please contact Sheila Banks-Switzer, Director (A) of the Ontario Diabetes Strategy, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care at (416) 326-6642 or send an e-mail to diabetes@ontario.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Tepper', followed by a long horizontal line that extends across the page.

Dr. Joshua Tepper
Assistant Deputy Minister

Public Notice

for Adult Ontarians

Living with Diabetes

Living with diabetes is not easy, but managing it day-to-day really means taking good care of yourself.

The Diabetes Testing Report will be sent from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to your physician. It will tell him or her when you last had three important tests: blood sugar test (A1C), cholesterol test (LDL), and retinal eye exam. We know that people living with diabetes who receive these tests regularly are better able to manage their diabetes and avoid complications. If you have diabetes and are not sure whether you have had these three tests, talk to your health care provider.

The Benefits

- Helps you and your physician better manage your diabetes care
- Lets you and your physician know if you are overdue for an A1C test, LDL test, and retinal eye exam
- Makes it easier for you and your physician to talk about your diabetes care

Respecting Your Privacy

To create this report, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and your physician will confidentially share the date of your last A1C test, LDL test, and retinal eye exam.

You may choose not to be included on your physician's Diabetes Testing Report. If you wish to withhold or withdraw your consent to have your information included on this Diabetes Testing Report, call **ServiceOntario** at **1-800-291-1405**, **TTY: 1-800-387-5559** on or before June 11, 2010. Should you choose to withhold or withdraw your consent, your physician will continue to provide health care to you.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal health information for the purposes of the Diabetes Testing Report, or if, at any time, you change your mind about having your information included in future Diabetes Testing Reports, call **ServiceOntario** at the numbers listed above. For more information about diabetes, visit Ontario.ca/diabetes

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