



Visual Tool for Diabetic Education

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PICOT Question

Will providing a visual tool increase the percentage of nurses who self-report documentation of diabetic education over a one-month time period compared to not using a tool?

Evidence Summary

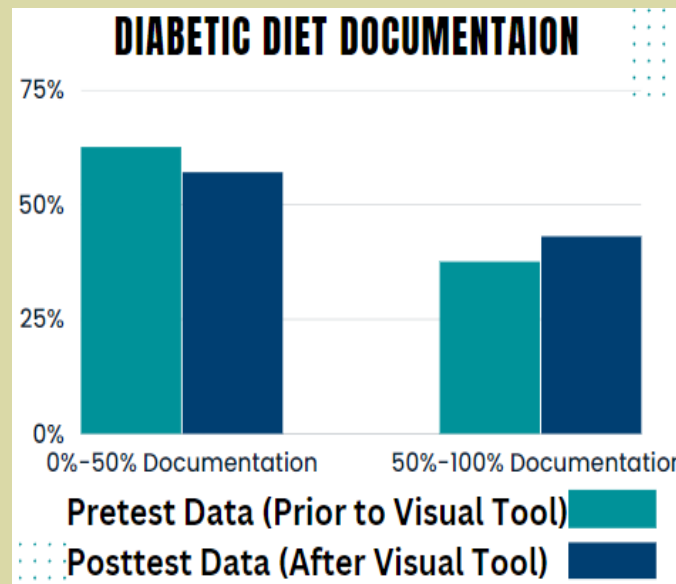
In the scoping review of 47 studies conducted by Mbanda and colleagues, visual tools (VT) can assist in the “establishment of joint attention or understanding of a shared concept for persons with low-literacy levels” (Mbanda, et. al., 2021). In addition, healthcare providers also benefit in using VT when teaching complex concepts to patients because it supports patient engagement and creates a therapeutic relationship with the patient (Hafner, et. al., 2022). A hospital case management journal stated a quote from Louise Villejo, “The main evidence of patient teaching and assessment is in the patient record” (“How to...”, 1999). Thus, documentation can be considered evidence of teaching.

Description of Change

- We created a visual aid to include a pamphlet for nurses to use that included basic carbohydrate information for patient snacks.
- We conducted a pre-survey with the nursing staff regarding documentation of diabetic education.
- Instructions for using the tool were emailed out to all nurses on the unit.
- A post-survey was performed after 30 days and compared to pre-survey data.

Results

- 100% of nurses reported that a visual tool would make diabetic diet education easier in the pre-survey.
- 100% reported the tool we created was valuable for education in the post-survey.
- 50% of those nurses responded that they educate on diabetic diet, most of the time but, only 37.5% document that education.
- The post-survey data indicated diabetic diet education documentation increased by 5.5% after implementation of the visual tool.
- This increase in documentation may also have been impacted by the enhanced awareness resulting from the attention our project generated.
- Dietary staff, patient care techs and unit secretaries were observed using the tool with patients.



Recommendation

- Recommend visual tools regarding diabetic education be available for all staff to use.
- Increase visual tools in patient education.
- We could provide this educational tool in multiple modalities to reach diverse populations.
- Future projects should focus on measuring the efficacy of patient education as opposed to nursing documentation.

References

- Hafner, C., Schneider, J., Schindler, M., & Brailard, O. (2022). Visual aids in ambulatory clinical practice: Experiences, perceptions and needs of patients and healthcare professionals. *PLOS ONE*, 17(2). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0263041>
- Mbanda, N., Dada, S., Bastable, K., Ingalill, G.-B., & Ralf W., S. (2021). A scoping review of the use of visual aids in health education materials for persons with low-literacy levels. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 104(5), 998–1017. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2020.11.034>
- How to document patient education effectively. (1999). *Hospital Case Management: Covering Case Management across the Care Continuum*.