

INSULIN PUMP USE CHALLENGES IN PEDIATRIC TYPE 1 DIABETES: A SURVEY OF DIABETES EDUCATORS

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Background and Aims

Managing pediatric type 1 diabetes can be challenging. Insulin pump therapy has been demonstrated to improve glycemic control and patients' quality of life. The certified diabetes educators (CDE) are the first line of connection between patients, their families and technology advancement. Perception of CDEs on observed challenges is a very important factor to make the process a successful one.

Method

Four Certified Diabetes Educators (CDE) practicing in a pediatric diabetes outpatient clinic, were asked to independently complete a brief survey to arrange in order of frequency, several challenges identified as common problems in dealing with pediatric diabetes pump therapy. The five major category were :

- 1- Financial/ Insurance factors
- 2- Recipient/Social factors
- 3- Provider's factor
- 4- Access/getting device to patient.
- 5- Incorrect use of device.

Results

All four certified diabetes educators placed the Financial/ Insurance factors as the most common challenge. This was followed by incorrect use of the device. Three of four certified diabetes educators placed Recipient/Social Factors in third place

Conclusion

Our brief survey demonstrated that in our patient population the financial factor (copay, cost) appears to be the most important identified challenge. Many families may find the cost of owning and maintaining the insulin pump a prohibiting factor. Families may face a huge out of pocket expenses at the initiation of the insulin pump therapy and this by itself may delay the access to it. Understanding and analyzing the financial aspect of insulin pump therapy remains the most important first step to ensure success.