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Bridging the Gap of Diabetes Knowledge in Hemodialysis Nurses

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Approximately 40% of patients receiving hemodialysis at St. Michael's Hospital have diabetes mellitus (DM). Hemodialysis nurses (HDRNs) have specialized knowledge of end stage renal disease, but their knowledge of current diabetes clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) is unknown. Currently there are no standards or tools for diabetes care in the Hemodialysis Unit.

This study investigated the impact of educating HDRNs on the current Canadian Diabetic Association diabetes guidelines to screen for the presence of DM complications. Consenting nurses completed knowledge questionnaires before and immediately after an educational intervention, and then again eight weeks later. Knowledge was reinforced with reference cards. Results from this study will determine the impact of educating HDRNs about guidelines for screening patients with diabetes for diabetes complications. Ultimately, it is hoped that increased knowledge among HDRNs will improve the screening of diabetic complications and enhance patients' outcomes.

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