

Diabetes Partners in Action Coalition

In the news

MI Health Care Providers Get Tools to Help Medicaid Patients Quit Smoking

By Karen S. Brown, MPA, Tobacco Program, MDCH

Health care providers can confidently refer their patients with Medicaid to proven quit smoking coaching assistance through the Michigan Tobacco QuitLine. Michigan became the first state in the nation to provide full access to a tobacco quitline to all Medicaid enrollees, effective October 1, 2008.

All Medicaid patients will have access to a QuitLine pro-active coaching service, at least three months of nicotine patches, gum or lozenges, and one of the prescription non-nicotine medications used to quit smoking.

Medicaid enrollees in Michigan have a very high smoking rate of 41%, which is almost twice that of the general population. The Medicaid program spends about \$1.1 billion per year to treat tobacco-related illnesses.

Research shows that a tobacco user is seven times more likely to stay quit by using a tobacco quitline, and even more likely to stay quit if a quit smoking medication is also used.



1-800-QUIT-NOW

Coming soon...

Look for the launch of our new external website, www.DPACMi.org

Diabetes on a Limited Budget: Food Stamp Assistance

Reprinted with permission from the Mid-Michigan Food Bank

Providers are encouraged to share this information with persons who are having challenges with meeting basic diabetes expenses and who may qualify for food stamps.

The Center for Civil Justice (CCJ) offers a toll-free Food and Nutrition Program Helpline where callers from throughout the state can be advised on whether they appear eligible for food stamps and an estimate of their likely benefits.

The Helpline number is 800-481-4989 and bilingual assistance is available for Spanish-speaking callers.

CCJ, in collaboration with the Michigan Poverty Law Program, also offers an internet site at www.foodstamphelp.org with helpful information on the Food Stamp program, and a “calculator” that can be used by most households to determine if they should be eligible for food stamps, and if so, the amount of food stamps they will receive.

Diabetes Support Group Conference

Joining People with Diabetes presents the first annual diabetes support group conference on **Saturday, September 19**, for people with diabetes who are interested in support groups as well as support group leaders.

The conference will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Mt. Pleasant. The registration fee is \$20. Attendees must register **by September 11th**. Contact Joanie Koets at the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan at 616-458-9520.

Diabetes and Pregnancy: New Toolkit Available

By Dawn Crane, MS, ACNS-BC, CDE
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Diabetes during pregnancy, whether gestational, type 1 or type 2, poses potential health concerns for both mother and baby. However, pregnancy outcomes can be improved with monitoring and management of blood glucose levels before, during and after the pregnancy. Unfortunately, not all women are aware of the effects diabetes can have during a pregnancy. As diabetes prevalence increases in younger Americans, it is vital for woman of all ages to have important information on diabetes. The goal has to be healthier moms and babies!

The Training and Education Workgroup members set out to increase public awareness of the connection between diabetes and pregnancy in 2009. The workgroup has developed a toolkit to assist with dissemination of pertinent information. In developing the toolkit, workgroup members focused on available consumer-oriented, written materials from various national, state, and commercial sources. Numerous resources on pregnancy and its relationship with diabetes were reviewed. Although there are many valuable resources available, a few were chosen to highlight. The chosen materials present accurate information that is consumer friendly, current, free and available in English and/or Spanish.

We hope that you will visit the DPAC website to access the toolkit (www.michigan.gov/diabetes, click on DPAC). Please help us educate and improve the health of pregnant women with diabetes and their babies by distributing these resources.

Get Involved

To nominate yourself or others for the DPAC Board, please complete the Nomination Form on the DPAC website - visit www.michigan.gov/diabetes and click on DPAC.

Emergency Food Resources

People with diabetes needing emergency food resources should go to the Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM) website for a listing of resources for each of Michigan's 83 counties. Visit the website at <http://www.fbcmich.org> and click on "Find Food." The FBCM can also be contacted at (517) 485-1202 or (800) 552-4483.

The FBCM is a statewide organization that is committed to the alleviation of hunger in our state and in our nation. To meet its mission, it gathers food and funds to help stock Michigan's food banks. The food is then distributed throughout the state-wide food banking network. Millions of pounds of this food are surplus vegetables, fruits and other grocery items which, for one reason or another, cannot be sold.

Save the Dates:

September 19: Joining People with Diabetes Support Group Training. See page one for more details.

September 20: American Diabetes Association Diabetes Expo, Michigan State Fairgrounds, Detroit. Call 888-342-2383, ext. 6697 for more information.

October 5: DPAC Full Membership Meeting, Kellogg Center, East Lansing, 9:30 – 4:30, featuring speakers Bill Herman, M.D. on the *Economic Cost of Diabetes and Impact on Consumer Behavior* and Paul Dake, M.D. on the *Diabetes Group Visit Project*.

