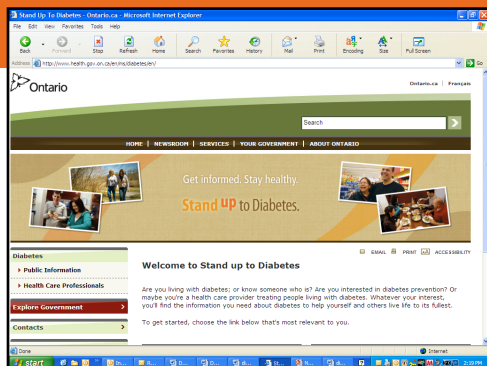


Ontario's Diabetes Strategy

From: Dr. Joshua Tepper,
Executive Sponsor
A newsletter for diabetes
stakeholders

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On November 12, 2009, the MOHLTC launched a new provincial diabetes website for both the public and health care providers. The website can be accessed at: www.ontario.ca/diabetes. The site is available in both French and English.

"It's so important that people with diabetes have access to the health care and support they need to manage their disease. I'm thrilled to help more Ontarians stand up to diabetes."

— Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"Diabetes is a serious disease but it is important to know that, by increasing daily physical activity and making healthy food choices, many cases of diabetes can be prevented. Proper management of diabetes can prove effective in preventing amputations, loss of sight and other diabetes-related complications."

— Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion



This is Diabetes Month and November 14 was World Diabetes Day. Therefore it is appropriate and with great pleasure that I share some details of last week's provincial diabetes announcement.

The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion announced a broad range of programs under the Ontario Diabetes Strategy. First, and in keeping with other health priorities, the government announced provincial targets to ensure that Ontario's Diabetes Strategy is producing results for Ontarians. Those include:

- Attaching all people with diabetes to a primary health care provider
- Ensuring that 80% of people with diabetes, aged 18 and older, have all three diabetes tests completed.

To help meet these targets, the province is moving forward with a number of new initiatives that will help people manage and prevent diabetes, including:

- Creating 51 new diabetes education teams across the province
- Expanding chronic kidney condition services, including additional clinic visits and increased dialysis treatment at home
- Creating up to 14 regional coordination centres to help better organize and manage local diabetes programs
- Expanding diabetes care and prevention resources, including new education tool kits for newly-diagnosed patients, community-based prevention programs for high-risk groups, enhanced services through EatRight Ontario and a new Stand Up to Diabetes website.



Stand up to Diabetes.



51 New Diabetes Teams

The Ministry will be providing funding for 51 new diabetes education teams across the province, including 11 in Aboriginal communities. The teams consist primarily of a registered nurse and a dietitian who work with family physicians, Nurse Practitioners and others to help individuals better manage their diabetes and avoid diabetes-related complications.

Chronic Kidney Disease

Ontario is expanding dialysis services in hospitals, community-based facilities, long-term care homes, complex continuing care and home-based dialysis care. Funding will support 5,000 additional clinic visits for care and prevention of chronic kidney condition; dialysis treatment for nearly 500 additional patients; and home dialysis for an additional 310 patients.

Regional Coordination Centres

Up to 14 Regional Coordination Centres will organize and coordinate regional diabetes programs. These centres will leverage local resources and existing expertise to ensure integration of diabetes services across the continuum of care, from prevention to primary and tertiary care. This will give individuals living with diabetes - or at risk of developing it - access to the services they need.

Patient Education Tool Kits

Patient education kits, which include fact sheets and educational videos, have been developed for newly diagnosed diabetes patients. These kits are available in a number of languages and contain information on topics including: healthy eating, foot care and managing stress. These kits will be available through primary care providers beginning next month.

Diabetes Prevention

Ontario is developing three diabetes prevention programs for groups at highest risk for diabetes. The Toronto, Peel and Northwestern Health Units - all of which have high rates of diabetes - will be working with community partners to develop programs.

The province is also enhancing EatRight Ontario. This service provides telephone access to a registered dietitian for guidance on healthy eating and nutrition. The program will now be culturally adapted with translated diabetes resources, extended evening call centre hours and a new online menu planner.

I would like to thank everyone who has worked to move this agenda forward, including Dr. Catherine Zahn for her leadership of the Diabetes Expert Panel, the panel members themselves, the Canadian Diabetes Association and the Local Health Integration Networks for their advice and guidance. I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of those in the field who are working day-to-day with Ontarians living with diabetes.

I would be pleased if you shared this Update with others, or forward the email addresses of those who would like to be on our e-list. Finally, I welcome your feedback at joshuatepper@ontario.ca

Stand up to Diabetes.