COMPREHENSIVE DIABETES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CDMP)

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ABSTRACT

The Comprehensive Diabetes Management Program (CDMP) is a web-based diabetes medical informatics tool developed by a consortium of researchers, physicians, and educators specializing in diabetes and its management. The overall goal behind the development of the CDMP is to provide an interactive, web-based clinical tool for care managers to efficiently manage and coordinate appropriate care for diabetic patients and to encourage patient behavior changes. The CDMP focuses on patient behavior change as the catalyst for improved outcomes. To achieve this goal, CDMP has two very distinct user interfaces: the first for providers and care managers (referred to as CDMP) and the second for direct patient access which incorporates the CDMP patient access portal (referred to as DMEverywhere). The CDMP is being used in 12 organizations and data are currently being collected for studies of clinical efficacy and cost efficiency.

KEY WORDS

Diabetes, chronic disease management, web-based clinical tool, care coordination, decision support, and medical data aggregation

1. Introduction

The CDMP is a web-based diabetes case management tool developed by a consortium of researchers, physicians, and educators specializing in diabetes and its management. The consortium is drawn from the Telehealth Research Institute (University of Hawaii School of Medicine), the Department of Defense Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Veterans Health Affairs (Boston Veterans Hospital), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and the Joslin Diabetes Center. The overall goal behind the development of the CDMP is to provide an interactive, web-based clinical tool for care managers to efficiently manage and coordinate appropriate clinical care for their diabetes patients, to address patient barriers to self-care, and to involve patients in their care and self-management. Unlike many other diabetes health

information technology (HIT) solutions, CDMP focuses on patient engagement as the catalyst for improved outcomes.

The CDMP has two user interfaces: the first for providers and care managers (referred to as CDMP); and the second for direct patient access (referred to as DMEverywhere). The CDMP is intended to: provide an automatic system to foster continuous care and HIPAA compliant secure communication among patients and providers; insure that the latest clinical guidelines (as identified by the American Diabetes Association) are used in the care; and focus on clinical outcomes, education, and patients' barriers and successes in their self-care, rather than just clinical outcomes, as is usually the case in diabetes care. In the CDMP case management model, the care manager is the key coordinator between patients and the health care team that includes MDs, NPs, educators, subspecialists, nutritionists, and behavioral clinicians.

The standard clinical care for a patient with diabetes typically follows a pattern similar to that outlined below:

- Patient assessment by review of medical records, lab reports:
- Referral of patient needing immediate medical care for non-diabetic problems to his/her primary care provider (PCP) or identification of a PCP for any patient who does not have one;
- 3) Assessment of the physical, psychological, and learning status of the patient (via formal or informal interviewing techniques and/or exams);
- 4) Preparation and maintenance of a treatment plan for the patient, with an emphasis on patient selfmanagement;
- 5) Referral of the patient to consultants (e.g. ophthalmology, nephrology) as needed;
- 6) Referral of the patient to diabetes education services, including classes, booklets, and other media;
- 7) Ongoing follow-up and feedback to the patient and treatment providers.

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By contrast, the CDMP was designed to contribute to the standard clinical process by:

- Generating red, yellow, and green alerts for the care manager or provider, all of which are based on a risk assessment algorithm and ADA diabetes management guidelines;
- Providing clinical assessment, notification, and communication tools;
- Providing a clinical risk assessment based on subspecialty diagnoses such as heart disease or eye complications;
- 4) Providing an assessment of patient barriers to self-care (including social support, finances, mood, etc.)
- 5) Tracking availability and patient use of educational resources that are site and user specific;
- 6) Summarizing patient knowledge and the impact of educational interventions;
- Providing dynamic care planning which is done with the patient and targets physical wellness, lifestyle self-management, and psychosocial health (incorporating information from the clinical and selfcare assessments);
- 8) Connecting with the health organization's health information system or available electronic data (with provisions for client and medical records privacy).

The application has undergone human factors and usability analyses, the results of which have been incorporated into the application.

2. Provider Care Manager Interface (CDMP)

CDMP is designed for implementation in a wide range of clinical settings, including those with and without Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems.

CDMP is designed to be superimposed functionally and integrated into a health care institution's unique Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system. CDMP automatically downloads patient data from the institution's EMR into a dedicated CDMP analysis server. Downloaded data can include patients' vital signs, procedures, laboratory reports, medications, procedures, diagnoses, and admissions, among other things. The CDMP inserts the newly downloaded data into the appropriate patient medical records, automatically updating the care provider's information.

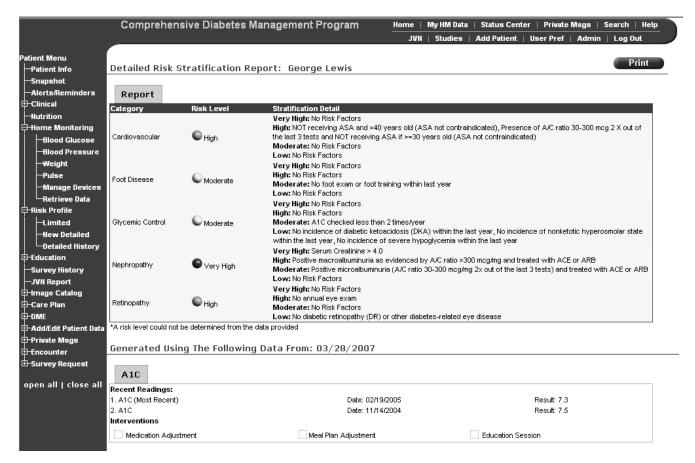
When no EMR is present, however, the CDMP can still be used. In this scenario, the CDMP patient data is collect manually (i.e., on paper) and the data are entered into the system. Then all of the care management functions are activated as if the CDMP were integrated with an EMR. Additionally, for small clinics, the CDMP serves double duty as a basic patient data repository.

CDMP generates "alerts" when a patient has experienced a specific health event or when the results from a patient's test exceed a pre-determined clinical threshold. Alerts are presented to the care manager/provider on his/her home page when next s/he logs into CDMP. The alerts indicate "high risk" to the patient, "moderate risk", or "low risk" to the patient, based on current ADA clinical guidelines and other guidelines already comprising standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the health care institution. The alerts are red (high risk), yellow (medium risk), and green (low risk) icons. Selecting the alert icon activates search options specific to the patient; e.g., demographic data, medication list, laboratory results, the event or result that generated the alert, available options for the care plan, and follow-up actions. These are displayed with a pull-down menu from which the care manager/provider can select various actions to be taken in response to the alert.

The CDMP also provides an overall clinical risk stratification of each patient. The stratification indicates whether and how the patient is above or below established goals in the areas of glycemic control, nephropathy, peripheral vascular disease, peripheral neuropathy, and retinopathy. Together with the care manager's/provider's knowledge of his/her patient, the risk stratification allows the care manager/provider to devise an individualized care plan that includes recommendations regarding the patient's goals, lifestyle, monitoring needs, and areas requiring further education. The risk stratification indicates whether patients are "high risk", "moderate risk", or "low risk" based on the Joslin Diabetes Center Clinical Guidelines for Adults with Diabetes. See Figure 1.

The clinical data in the CDMP are augmented with data obtained separately from the CDMP Behavioral Assessment Tool (BAT) and two separate Nutrition Assessment Tools (NAT A and B). The BAT is designed to assess patients' psychosocial characteristics that impact diabetes care. To date, the available case management systems have concentrated principally on clinical issues (e.g., laboratory test results) and have not focused on salient behavioral issues. The BAT contains assessment of the following psychosocial areas: diabetes history, nutrition, physical activity, frequency of self-monitoring of blood sugar levels, medication use, mood, alcohol use, tobacco use, self-perceived health, social support, access to the clinic, education, and other health-related problem areas and personal information. These areas encompass behaviors with respect to three major behavioral categories: physical wellness, lifestyle and selfmanagement, and psychosocial. It is used to create profiles of risk or problems in these three categories, which can then be used by the care manager/provider and patient to make determinations about the care plan (also in the CDMP) and follow-up education.

Figure 1. CDMP Risk Stratification Report



The CDMP contains other features intended to assist the care manager/provider in the organization of his/her caseload. For example, the CDMP home page shows the care manager's/provider's daily reminders. The reminders show the patient's name, the type of reminder needed (e.g., clinical assessment, modification of the care plan. etc.), and pertinent details regarding the reminder such as type of action needed. The CDMP home page also shows each day's upcoming appointments. Further, there is an online scheduler within the CDMP that helps care managers to schedule routine appointments. Finally, the CDMP provides the care manager/provider easy access to complete, and/or up-to-date paperless records of each patient in his/her caseload. For each patient, these records include a history of his/her behavioral assessment, a photograph, demographics, and vital signs, medication usage, record of laboratory results, procedures the patient has had, diagnoses, patient admission history, education history, and the results, if performed, of the non-dilated retinal examination using the Joslin Vision Network digital, stereo non-mydriatic cameras. See Figure 2.

3. Patient Direct Access Interface (DMEverywhere)

DMEverywhere is a secure internet portal intended to provide patients with direct access to their personal health information, learning materials offered by their health care institution (with tools to track patient compliance and evaluation of the impact of the educational intervention on patient behavior) and care team communications. Key components of DME include:

- 1. Biometric data upload with automated, graphical analysis and feedback..
- Personal Care Plans created in concert with the patients Care Manager.
- A personalized learning plan, utilizing preapproved online training materials.
- Access to data including lab results, medications, procedures and diagnosis.
- Secure, HIPPA compliant patient/provider electronic private messaging/communications.
- 6. Automated patient notification, when new data and/or analyses are available.
- Access to public diabetes discussion and support forums.

Figure 2. CDMP Snapshot

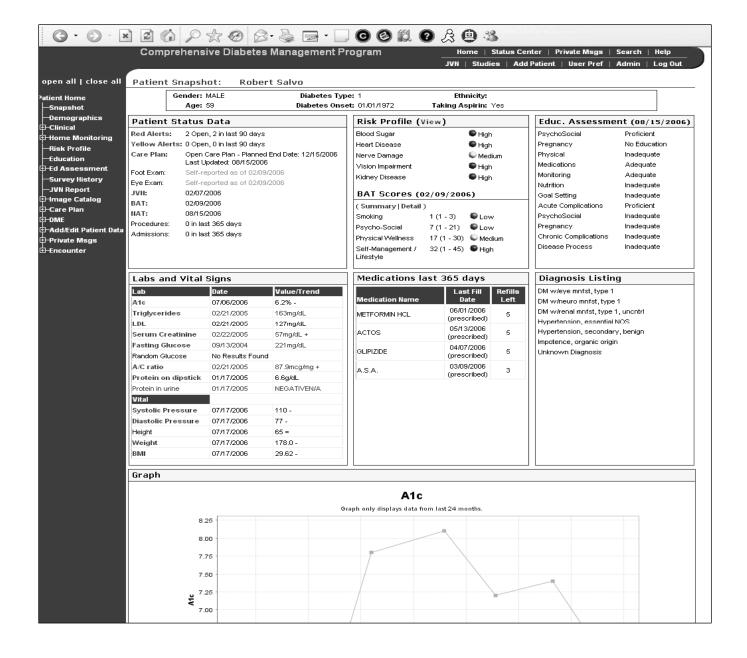
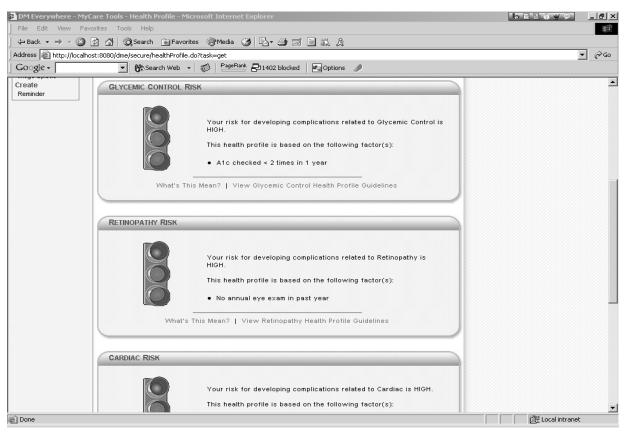


Figure 3. DMEverywhere





When used in combination, these resources allow patients to better understand their condition and modify their behavior accordingly.

4. Reporting

The centralized CDMP database was designed to provide a rich reporting environment for both its end users and diabetes researchers. Users can report on almost any diabetes related performance metric at the provider, group, or implementation level. When used under an approved research protocol, CDMP data from multiple installations is de-identified and sent to a central research data store.

5. Conclusion

The CDMP is being used at the Diabetes Institute at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (Washington, DC), the VA ViSN-1 (Boston, MA), the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (Phoenix, AZ), Lackland Air Force Base (San Antonio, TX), the Joslin Diabetes Center (Boston, MA), and eight community health centers (MA, SC and HI). It has been subjected to expert review and usability tests. Data is currently being collected for studies of clinical efficacy and cost efficiency.

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