Diabetes & the Medicare Population: Washington

Introduction to the Report
Diabetes has a considerable impact on the nation’s healthcare system and on individuals living with the condition. This report is intended to support efforts within Washington’s communities to monitor and improve diabetes-related quality measures. Data represents the year of July 2016 – June 2017. This report’s population also includes individuals under age 65 who qualify for Medicare due to chronic disability (approximately 20% of the Medicare population). It does not include data on individuals living outside the state who may seek care in the state.

Through our work as Medicare’s Quality Improvement Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) in Idaho and Washington, Qualis Health is assisting providers and patients to develop systems to better manage and monitor this disease. We are also working with communities throughout both states to improve care coordination, prevent adverse drug events, and reduce unnecessary rehospitalizations. To learn more about our QIN-QIO activities, please see:

• Diabetes-related consulting for primary care physicians

• Diabetes self-management education for Medicare beneficiaries and their family members and caregivers
  www.Medicare.QualisHealth.org/EDC

• Consulting related to care coordination and reducing unnecessary rehospitalizations on a community level
  www.Medicare.QualisHealth.org/Transitions

This material was prepared by Qualis Health, the Medicare Quality Innovation Network - Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for Idaho and Washington, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. ID-C3-QH-3250-11-17
Disease Prevalence

Over 120,000 of Washington’s Medicare beneficiaries have been diagnosed with diabetes. While diabetes is prevalent throughout the state, the difference between the communities with the lowest and highest rates is stark: the rate of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries residing in the Tri-Cities is 70% higher than that of East King.

Figure 1: Prevalence of Diabetes among Medicare Beneficiaries by Community, July 2016 – June 2017

Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes also face increased morbidity from other chronic conditions. Figure 2 shows the prevalence for select chronic conditions for beneficiaries with and without diabetes.

Figure 2: Prevalence of Select Comorbidities among Medicare Beneficiaries With and Without Diabetes, July 2016 – June 2017
There are also racial disparities in the prevalence of diabetes as well as in the prevalence of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), which can be caused by uncontrolled diabetes.

**Figure 3: Prevalence of Diabetes, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) among Medicare Beneficiaries by Race and Dual-Eligibility with Medicaid, July 2016 – June 2017**

The racial disparities in CKD prevalence lead to racial disparities in health care utilization, such as admissions and 30-day rehospitalizations, as shown later in this report.
Appropriateness of Care

People with diabetes have greatly increased risk for cardiovascular disease and other comorbidities, so screening for glycemic and lipid control and neuropathic complications is part of ongoing care management. The charts below show variation by community for recommended care measures.

Figure 4: Percent of Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes Receiving Annual HbA1c Test by Community, July 2016 – June 2017

Figure 5: Percent of Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes Receiving Annual Lipid Test by Community, July 2016 – June 2017

Figure 6: Percent of Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes Receiving Annual Eye Exam by Community, July 2016 – June 2017
Figure 7: Percent of Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes Ever Receiving At Least One Pneumococcal Vaccine by Community, July 2016 – June 2017

Figure 8: Percent of Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes Receiving Annual Influenza Vaccine by Community, October 2016 – March 2017

Figure 7: Percent of Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes Ever Receiving At Least One Pneumococcal Vaccine by Rurality, July 2016 – June 2017

Figure 8: Percent of Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes Receiving Annual Influenza Vaccine by Rurality, October 2016 – March 2017
Hospital Utilization and Medicare Spending

Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes have increased admission, 30-day rehospitalization, and Emergency Department (ED) rates compared to beneficiaries without diabetes. However, that utilization is largely driven by individuals who have diabetes that has progressed to Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). The figures below show utilization, mortality, and per capita costs for individuals by diabetes status.

Figure 7: ED Visits, Hospital Admissions, and 30-Day Re-Hospitalizations by Diabetes Status for Medicare Beneficiaries, July 2016 – June 2017

Figure 8: Mortality by Diabetes Status for Medicare Beneficiaries, July 2016 – June 2017

Figure 9: Per Capita Costs by Diabetes Status for Medicare Beneficiaries, July 2016 – June 2017
In part as a result of racial disparities in diabetes progression, there are racial disparities in utilization among beneficiaries with diabetes.

**Figure 10: Admits per 1,000 Beneficiaries with Diabetes by Race, July 2016 – June 2017**

**Figure 11: ED Visits per 1,000 Beneficiaries with Diabetes by Race, July 2016 – June 2017**

**Figure 12: 30-Day Rehospitalizations per 1,000 Beneficiaries with Diabetes by Race, July 2016 – June 2017**

**Figure 13: LEAs per 100,000 Beneficiaries by Race, July 2016 – June 2017**
Diabetes Self-Management Education Outcomes

Qualis Health is currently partnering with community organizations to support Diabetes Self-Management Education by offering the evidence-based Diabetes Self-Management Workshops. This gold-standard strategy, originally developed at Stanford University, empowers people with diabetes to manage their symptoms, address day-to-day problems and improve the quality of their lives. Participants learn, practice and master skills such as goal-setting and action-planning, blood sugar monitoring, medication management, meal planning, safe physical activity, stress and depression management, problem-solving and decision-making.

Pre- and post-class patient activation surveys indicate that participants¹
- Participants were more likely to feel able to ask their doctor questions about their treatment plans after participation (68% before vs. 94% after).
- Participants were more likely to feel able to make a plan with goals that will help control their diabetes after participation (55% before versus 91% after).

¹ Complete national and state results of pre-class and post-class Patient Activation Surveys are available upon request. Organizations partnering with Qualis Health can receive this data for participants of their specific classes in aggregate form after they have had at least 20 individuals complete pre- and post-class surveys.
## Table 1: Utilization and Per Capita Costs for Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes by Community, July 2016 – June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Percent with CKD</th>
<th>ED Visits per 1,000</th>
<th>Admissions per 1,000</th>
<th>30-Day Rehospitalizations per 1,000</th>
<th>Lower Extremity Amputations per 100,000</th>
<th>Per Capita Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHOICE</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>684.34</td>
<td>388.55</td>
<td>66.39</td>
<td>67.94</td>
<td>$12,992</td>
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<td>East King</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
<td>494.94</td>
<td>396.45</td>
<td>69.11</td>
<td>37.51</td>
<td>$13,972</td>
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<td>Kitsap</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
<td>687.28</td>
<td>346.95</td>
<td>57.85</td>
<td>41.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olympic</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>656.60</td>
<td>331.84</td>
<td>54.70</td>
<td>40.09</td>
<td>$12,158</td>
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<td>Pierce</td>
<td>51.8%</td>
<td>545.25</td>
<td>432.08</td>
<td>80.97</td>
<td>62.51</td>
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<td>Seattle</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td>559.88</td>
<td>456.00</td>
<td>95.01</td>
<td>53.87</td>
<td>$14,783</td>
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<td>Skagit</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
<td>633.60</td>
<td>374.88</td>
<td>70.49</td>
<td>36.45</td>
<td>$12,763</td>
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<td>Snohomish</td>
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<td>539.18</td>
<td>449.32</td>
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<td>South King</td>
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<td>67.84</td>
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<td>Southwest WA</td>
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<td>83.73</td>
<td>79.06</td>
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<td>Spokane</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
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<td>396.21</td>
<td>64.23</td>
<td>58.72</td>
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<td>Tri-Cities</td>
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<td>387.69</td>
<td>77.14</td>
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<td>Walla Walla</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>949.25</td>
<td>376.53</td>
<td>55.08</td>
<td>63.72</td>
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<td>Wenatchee</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>647.92</td>
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<td>56.04</td>
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<td>Whatcom</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
<td>413.09</td>
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<td>57.02</td>
<td>19.74</td>
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<td>Yakima</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
<td>854.33</td>
<td>369.67</td>
<td>64.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>626.44</td>
<td>399.02</td>
<td>71.55</td>
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