The Hypoglycemia Prevention Initiative is a multi-year joint effort of the Endocrine Society and Avalere Health to determine best practices in primary care to reduce the impact of hypoglycemia on older [51+ years] people with type 2 diabetes (T2D) who use insulin and/or sulfonylureas, have a recent A1c of >7%, and see an increased risk of hypoglycemia. The initial effort of this initiative is the Hypoglycemia Prevention Study (HypoPrevent), an implementation research and quality improvement (QI) study designed to test an intervention in primary care settings to identify older people with T2D at risk of hypoglycemia and a clinical decision support tool designed to facilitate risk reduction. This study assesses various methods to decrease the risk of hypoglycemia on an individual basis through shared decision making (SDM), individualized A1c goals and/or changes to their glucose-lowering medications regimen. The diabetes educator, who is also the practice coordinator for this study, plays a key role with annual assessments and education on glucose-lowering medications and their mechanism of action.

WHAT IS THE HYPOGLYCEMIA PREVENTION INITIATIVE?

- HYPOGLYCEMIA PREVENTION INITIATIVE

- WHY FOCUS ON HYPOGLYCEMIA?

- Identified as one of the top three preventable adverse drug reactions by the US Department of Health and Human Services
- Average incidence of hypoglycemia among people with T2D on insulin is 25 mild or moderate events and 1 severe episode per year
- Between January 2007 and December 2011, emergency department visits for therapy-associated hypoglycemia among Medicare beneficiaries resulted in more than $900 million in spending

- STAGES OF HYPOPREVENT AND ROLES OF DIABETES EDUCATORS

- STAGE 1: Study Design

- STAGE 2: Site Recruitment

- STAGE 3: PMR Decision to Engage: The practice's CDE became aware of the QI initiative through the aforementioned ANDE newsletter that highlighted projects and initiatives that are related to CDEs. Knowing the medical director’s approach to working with people with diabetes as individuals with their own values and preferences, the CDE discussed the potential impact participation in this study would have on PMSI. Following completion of the recruitment survey that assessed a provider’s ability to participate in a QI initiative focused on diabetes, the CDE attended the enrollment webinar. Based on what she learned, she felt that for the study, it would fit well with PMSI’s mission to improve people with T2D’s self-care management skills to improve their quality of life.

- STAGE 4: Data Collection and Implementation of Interventions

- STAGE 5: Patient Encouragement and Implementation of Blended Decision-Making Intervention

- STAGE 6: Analysis and Dissemination

- ABOUT PMSI AND THE ROLE OF THE CDE

- PMSI is a physician-owned multispecialty group practice with offices in Berks and Montgomery Counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania. They are committed to delivering the highest quality medical care through the coordination of properly planned, managed and utilized medical services. With respect, compassion, and consideration, their providers deliver appropriate healthcare to their patients, providing for all of their healthcare needs.

- The CDE provides group and individual education and support services to people with diabetes and their support systems as needed, for a six-office network of family providers and specialists in primary care, endocrinology, cardiology, gastroenterology, internal medicine, and family medicine.

- For more information, please visit

- ENDOCRINE.ORG/HYPOPREVENT

- References and Resources