**CREATION OF A PATIENT ADVISORY GROUP FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

The Hypoglycemia Prevention Initiative is a joint effort of the Endocrine Society and Avalere Health to reduce the impact of hypoglycemia on patients with Type 2 Diabetes (T2D). The Hypoglycemia Prevention Study will test an intervention in primary care to identify patients at risk of hypoglycemia and assess methods to decrease their risk through the individualization of their A1c goals and/or changes to their medications. To incorporate the patient perspective into our study design and implementation, we established a patient advisory group and facilitated three meetings from June-October 2018.

**PROJECT AIM**

Effectively engage individuals sixty and older with T2D in an advisory capacity for QI research.

**GOALS WERE TO:**

1. **Collect first-hand accounts of patients’ experiences trying to avoid or getting care for hypoglycemia**
2. **Vet key aspects of study resources and patient recruitment strategy**

**ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS ARE:**

Aged 59+ with Type 2 Diabetes taking insulin and/or SUs having prior experiences with hypoglycemia.

**Geographically diverse and representative of different socio-economic backgrounds**

**Comfortable with computers**

**ACTIONS TAKEN**

We implemented best practices in meeting facilitation while taking into account the specific needs of our group members.

**Establish structure of patient panel**

- Reviewed literature on best practices for involving patients in research design
- Defined group’s purpose and priority areas for input
- Established member recruitment criteria

**Conduct recruitment**

Recruited using traditional and innovative channels

Conducted phone calls to understand people’s comfort level and interest in engaging with their peers

**Prepare for and facilitate meetings**

- Responded to technology challenges
- Tailored all materials to members’ literacy levels
- Developed rules of engagement and facilitation questions to guide discussions
- Established Facebook group to allow continued information sharing on the patient experience

**OUTCOMES**

We collected insights on patients’ experiences with hypoglycemia and valuable input on 1) the usefulness of patient educational resources to be used in our study, 2) the clarity of our consent form, and 3) the logic of our method for patient recruitment.

**MEMBERS’ INPUT HAS INFLUENCED OUR STUDY DESIGN AS FOLLOWS:**

- Communication with patients during recruitment phase will be done through multiple channels and at different points in time (e.g., mail, email, phone call, in-person)
- The benefits and risks of our study are more clearly explained in the telephone outreach guide and consent form
- We are considering developing additional visual materials to facilitate the consent process
- Patients will not be compensated for participation in the study

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT ENDOCRINE.ORG/HYPOPREVENT**

Stephanie B. Kutler, Endocrine Society, skutler@endocrine.org
Judit Illes, BCL/LLB, MS, CPHQ, Avalere Health, Jillies@avalere.com