



South Dakota Diabetes Educators Network



Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) in a Primary Care Setting

Expanding the reach of diabetes education and bridging the gap between the primary care clinic and Diabetes Self-Management Education/Training (DSME/T) Programs.

What is a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE)?

A Certified Diabetes Educator® (CDE®) is a health professional who possesses comprehensive knowledge of and experience in diabetes prevention, prediabetes, and diabetes management. The CDE educates, supports, and advocates for people affected by diabetes, addressing the stages of diabetes throughout the lifespan. The CDE promotes self-management to achieve individualized behavioral and treatment goals that reduce risks and optimize health outcomes. (National Certification Board of Diabetes Educators. <https://www.ncbde.org/>. 2019)

What are the benefits to having a CDE in a Primary Care Clinic?

There are many benefits to having a PA, NP, or MD as a CDE in a Primary Care Clinic, as listed below.



Benefits to the Patient

- **Timeline** - the time from referral to the patient initially receiving education in the clinic
- **Transition** - the patient experiences a smooth transition from their primary care provider, to the clinic CDE, to a local or regional DSME/T program
- **Cost** - initial cost for diabetes education is billed for the patient as an office visit co-pay



Benefits to the Primary Care Provider (PCP)

- **Collaboration** - the PCP refers the patient to the in-house CDE and introduces the patient to the CDE for initial diabetes education
- **Outcomes** - improved patient outcomes due to referral to education
- **Quality Measures** - improved quality measures due to referral to education



Benefits to the Clinic

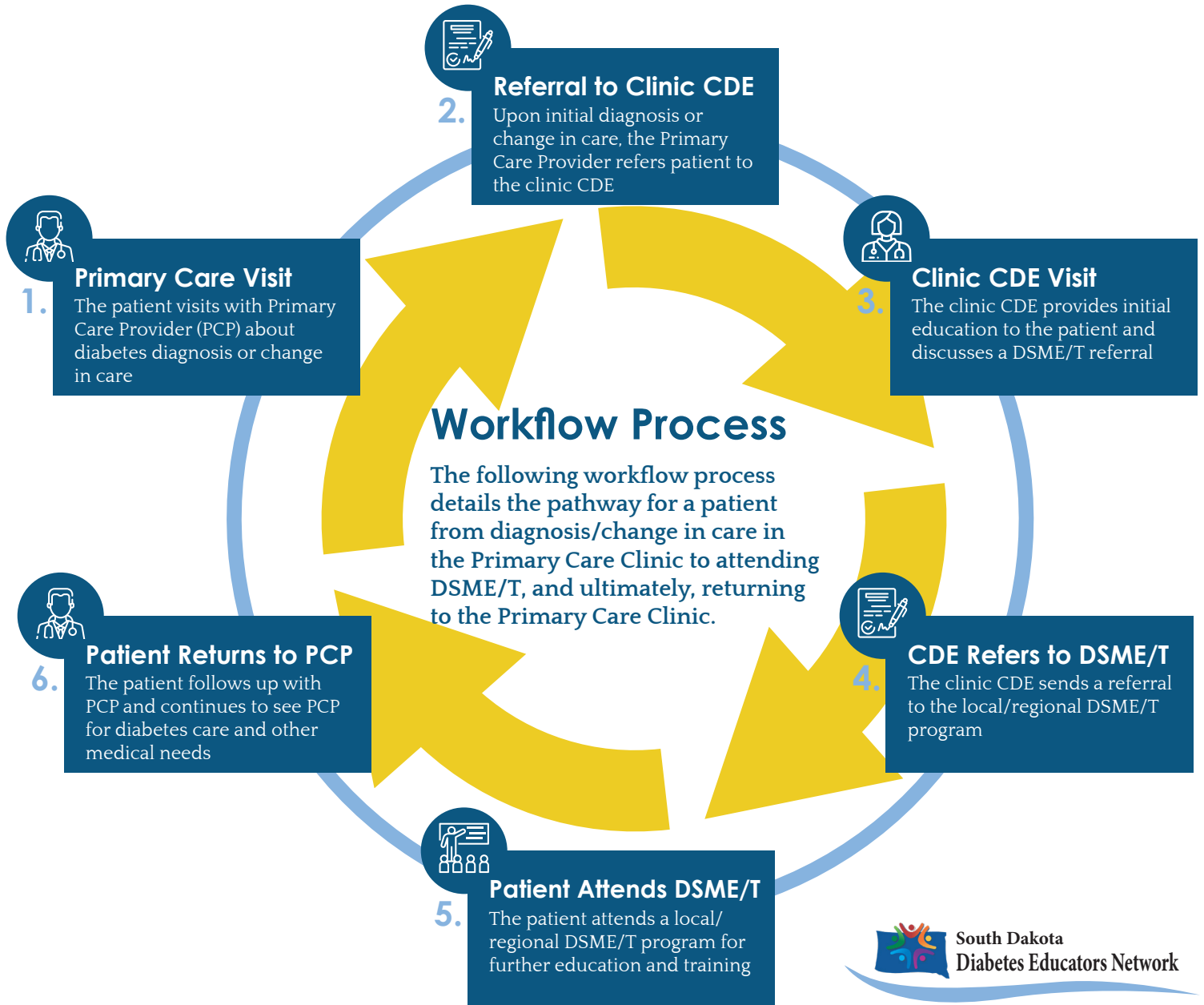
- **Revenue** - the visit is billable, generating revenue for the clinic (if the CDE is a PA, NP, or MD)
- **Local** - the patient stays within the clinic for initial education and then transitions to DSME/T
- **Outcomes** - improved patient outcomes due to referral to education



Benefits to the DSME/T Program

- **Referrals** - the clinic CDE provides and manages referrals for patients to DSME/T
- **Transition** - the patient experiences a smooth transition from their primary care provider, to the clinic CDE, to a local or regional DSME/T program
- **Readiness** - the patient has received some education and is ready to continue learning

Workflow Process for Patient Referrals to Education



When to Refer a Patient to Diabetes Education

Primary Care Providers should refer their patients to diabetes education at four critical times to assess, provide, and adjust diabetes self-management education and support:

1. At diagnosis
2. Annual assessment of education, nutrition, and emotional needs
3. When a new complicating factor influences self-management
4. When transitions in care occur

Reimbursement

To receive reimbursement for diabetes education in the primary care clinic, the CDE must also be a PA, NP, or MD. Office visits for diabetes education are reimbursable using specific CPT codes.