



Diabetes Care and Education Specialists in the Primary Care Clinic

Diabetes Care and Education Specialists can expand the reach of diabetes education and bridge the gap between the primary care clinic and Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) programs.

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

There are many benefits to having a PA, NP, or MD as a DCES 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 DCES, to a local or regional DSMES Program
- **Cost** - initial cost for diabetes education is typically billed for the patient as an office visit co-pay



Benefits to the Primary Care Provider

- **Collaboration** - the PCP refers the patient to the in-house DCES and introduces the patient to the DCES 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 may be a billable, generating revenue for the clinic (if the DCES is a PA, NP, or MD)
- **Local** - the patient stays within the clinic for initial education and then transitions to DSMES
- **Outcomes** - improved patient outcomes due to referral to education



Benefits to the DSMES Program

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

What is a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (CDCES)?

A Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist® (CDCES®) (previously known as a CDE) is a health professional who possesses comprehensive knowledge of and experience in diabetes prevention, prediabetes, and diabetes management. The CDCES 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) PCPs who serve as the DCES in a primary care clinic should consider becoming a CDCES as certification reiterates their formal diabetes training and education.

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Workflow Process for Patient Referrals to DSMES



When to Refer a Patient to DSMES

Primary Care Providers should refer their patients to DSMES 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

More information regarding the implementation of a DCES in a Primary Care Setting can be found by accessing the South Dakota Diabetes Coalition website (www.SDDiabetesCoalition.org) and clicking on “Educators”.