



News Release

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DiaTrends™ Helps Physicians Track, Improve Diabetes Care

DiaTrends™, an innovative new software program that promises to revolutionize the treatment of patients with diabetes, is now available to physicians after three years of intensive development.

Developed by practicing clinical endocrinologists, DiaTrends™ is designed to enhance patient care by helping physicians track, evaluate and improve their adherence to accepted diabetes management guidelines.

Numerous studies have shown that while optimal care is a primary goal of most physicians, many simply do not track key indicators on the schedule recommended by the American Diabetes Association (ADA). A recent study by a managed care organization found that the HbA_{1c} – a critical test that should be done every three to six months – was performed annually on only 60 percent of diabetes patients in some states. Meanwhile, the average HbA_{1c} in the United States is reported to be 9.5 %, far above the ADA goal of <7.0%. DiaTrends™ is based on the simple principle that “what gets measured gets done.” It gives busy physicians and care providers a quick, easy, efficient and effective system for tracking regular checkpoints – such as HbA_{1c} results, cholesterol levels, eye exams

- more -

and foot exams – and assessing the effectiveness of interventions, thus improving patient care.

DiaTrends™:

- Provides an organizational tool for tracking key disease indicators.
- Quickly reminds the diabetes care provider at each patient visit of procedures due.
- Lets the physician easily track trends in individual patients' test results.
- Generates multiple reports and graphs, permitting the physician to analyze the effectiveness of medications and other interventions.
- Includes links to full ADA and AACE guidelines.
- Helps physicians improve patient education through features such as a patient "report card," showing critical test information trends.

The software was developed by Overlook Software, Inc. of Greensboro, NC, from a prototype initially used in the offices of Charles G. Gegick, M.D., F.A.C.P., and Michael D. Althimer, M.D., F.A.C.E.

"In 1996, we developed, for our endocrinology practice, a computerized database for tracking the processes and outcomes of care in our patients with diabetes," said Gegick, president of Overlook Software. "We quickly discovered that it became a quality-enhancement tool far exceeding our initial expectations. Our care improved in documented and measurable ways. This experience, plus feedback from physicians who reviewed what we had done, inspired us to develop this software into a commercial application."

Diabetes mellitus is one of the major causes of morbidity, mortality and health-care expenditures in the United States. It is the seventh leading cause of death, the leading cause of blindness and the leading cause of end-stage renal disease in this country. The annual cost of diabetes in the U.S. was estimated at \$98 billion in 1997.

Recent advances in understanding diabetes and the mechanisms by which complications occur have given the diabetes care provider the opportunity to more effectively manage the disease. Yet numerous studies have shown that care of patients with diabetes is often far from optimal. It is inherently difficult to translate current knowledge into the labor-intensive actions required to achieve good outcomes.

"This has resulted in an alarming dichotomy between scientific knowledge and its implementation in clinical practice," said Gegick. "DiaTrends™ helps bridge this gap."