



Diabetes Self Management Training (DSMT) Reimbursement Initiative

BACKGROUND

About 27% of Medicare beneficiaries have diabetes. Among minority populations the percentage of diabetes is much higher. Studies have proven that effective management of diabetes decreases mortality and morbidity and may lower future medical care costs. Medicare has a Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT) benefit designed to educate beneficiaries about their disease and how to better manage it.

The U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA), now part of the Administration for Community Living, implemented the “DSMT Reimbursement Initiative” to increase access to this important benefit by focusing on its financial sustainability as a Medicare-covered benefit.

GOAL

The goal of this initiative was to assist Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and their Medicare service provider partners achieve accreditation from The American Diabetes Association (ADA) or the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) to offer a DSMT program using an Evidence-Based Diabetes Self-Management Program as the curriculum. Accredited programs can receive Medicare recognition and subsequent claims reimbursement.

Prior to achieving accreditation, each site had to secure an eligible Medicare provider

partner that could submit claims to Medicare. Only Medicare providers can receive reimbursement from Medicare for providing DSMT to eligible beneficiaries in “original” Medicare. However, they can share the reimbursement with their AAA partners.

The Medicare provider partner can be a physician, Federally Qualified Health Center, or any qualified entity with a valid Medicare billing number.

PROGRAM HISTORY

To demonstrate program sustainability, AoA began this initiative by assisting about a dozen participating sites seeking Medicare reimbursement for DSMT. Each site has received technical assistance through on-site visits, webinars, and periodic teleconferences. We have also developed a draft toolkit and will soon post an online version.

PROGRAM CONTENT

Presently both accredited sites are providing the Stanford Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP) curriculum to participants and are also providing Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT), another Medicare reimbursable benefit. The combined reimbursement for the two programs is sufficient to sustain them.

AAAs can choose to offer any evidence-based diabetes self-management program that meets the accreditation standards of ADA or AADE, with or without MNT.



CURRENT EFFORTS

AoA is no longer accepting requests from individual AAAs to provide technical assistance on setting up Medicare-reimbursable DSMT programs outside of our current grant programs. This Reimbursement Initiative has ended.

However, we will be providing additional web-based tools and webinars, and are developing processes to encourage several AAAs and other service providers to join together collaboratively to build sustainable programs.

WEBSITES

American Diabetes Association
(ADA): <http://professional.diabetes.org/Recognition.aspx?typ=15&cid=84040>

American Association of Diabetes Educators
(AADE):
<http://www.diabeteseducator.org/ProfessionalResources/accred/>

Stanford University DSMP
Information: <http://patienteducation.stanford.edu/programs/diabeteseng.html>

For more information about ACL

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