



# A review of the activity and effects of nurse-led care in diabetes

The results of a literature review exploring the activity and effects of nurse-led care in diabetes were presented at the 2007 FEND conference. This review, recently published in the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*,<sup>1</sup> provides a critical appraisal of current evidence regarding the activity and effects of nurse-led care in diabetes. Following systematic searches of CINAHL, MEDLINE, and British Nursing Index, from 1996–June 2006, 22 studies were identified, six in primary care and 16 in secondary care (including hospital in-patients and out-patients). Studies were categorised into three main areas: descriptions of activities of nurses in diabetes (n=5); evaluation of nurse interventions on service delivery (n=7); and evaluation of nurse interventions on patient outcomes (n=10).

It is evident from the findings that the main activities in which nurses are involved include: education, individualised care, patient safety, promotion of self-care, acquisition of physical skills, psychological support, insulin titration and medicine adjustment. Disease management protocols are the main mechanisms used by nurses to deliver medicines to patients. Key patient benefits include improved glycaemic con-

trol, improved diabetic symptoms, cost effectiveness, and decreased length of hospital stay. Patient evaluations of nurse-led care also report improvements in self-care, patient knowledge, quality-of-life and satisfaction. However, it is unclear if the educational needs of nurses working in diabetes are currently met. Furthermore there is no evidence examining nurse independent prescribing or nurse supplementary prescribing. Given that nurses have a key role to play in the care of patients with diabetes, including the management of medicines, there is a need for further research to evaluate these areas in more detail.

## Reference

1. Carey N, Courtenay M. A review of the activity and effects of nurse-led care in diabetes. *J Clin Nurs* 2007; **16**: 296–304.

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## Conference Notice

### 13th FEND Annual Conference, “Wishes for Diabetes at the Trevi Fountain”

5-6 September 2008, Rome Cavalieri Hilton, Rome, Italy

Main programme topics include:

- The diabetes landscape in Italy – Prof Massimo Porta
- Dangerous liaisons : Diabetes and cardiac complications – Prof Antonio Ceriello
- Dangerous liaisons: Renal disease and diabetes – Dr Ludwig Merker / Maria Scholz
- Pregnancy in T2 diabetes / gestational diabetes: The Irish experience – Dr Brendan Kinsley
- New therapies in diabetes management: Incretins, Byetta, DPP4 - Prof Peter Flatt
- Diabetes education: an integral component of diabetes management – Amparo Gonzalez
- Therapeutical Patient Education – Prof Jean-Philippe Assal
- HbA1c alignment – Prof Sally Marshall
- Stem cells – implications for people with diabetes – Prof Chantal Mathieu
- Outcomes and indicators for diabetes education: What are we trying to achieve? Prof Ruth Colgiuri
- Masterclasses on elearning, insulin pump therapy and nurse prescribing

#### For further details and to register please contact:

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