



Amputation prevention initiative: A joint effort of the Massachusetts Public Health Association and the Massachusetts Podiatric Medical Society

James J. DiResta, DPM, MPH, Department of Surgery, Anna Jaques Hospital, 25 Highland Avenue, Newburyport, MA 01950

In assessing the needs of the population of diabetic patients in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a significant number are suspect of having increased risk factors for LEA (lower extremity amputation). Lack of available podiatric care combined with the complicating factors of DPN (distal peripheral neuropathy) and PAD (peripheral arterial disease) associated with diabetes are predisposing factors leading to foot ulcers, difficulty in healing foot wounds and gangrene that can lead to lower extremity amputation. Numerous studies have alluded to the need for palliative professional podiatric foot care in this population and the need for regular diabetic foot care and screening as major preventative tools in amputation prevention. Via a policy initiative and through health education and a promotion program we can improve upon the rates of foot screenings, the delivery of podiatric care and the education of both the patient and family of patients who suffer from this disease disorder and initiate these LEA preventative measures. The policy change will effectively identify and treat those most at risk and of greatest need which will result in a significant decrease in the overall morbidity of this population group by lessening the incidence of LEA. An improvement model program on Amputation Prevention will be formulated to create a significant change in present practice and attempt to create a new direction in health care policy.

Program Selection: Podiatric Health

Topic: Diabetic Foot Management - The result of Diabetic foot conditions on public health care and management of said conditions to improve health care

Keywords: Diabetes, Public Health Education and Health Promotion

Learning Objectives:

- identify and quantify rates of LEA (lower extremity amputations), at-risk populations, and policy initiatives recommended to prevent LEA
- begin to formulate an advocacy strategy that will bring a change in health care policy on amputation prevention to stakeholders in public health, government and third party payers
- create a public education amputation prevention program

- bring this amputation prevention model of collaboration and partnership between a podiatric medical society and state public health association to other states

Submitter Email: james.j.diresta.DMS04@alum.dartmouth.org

Target Audiences: Healthcare providers involved in the treatment of patients with diabetes and PAD, officials interested in health policy change relative to this population group, and government and third party stakeholders looking to quality improvement and cost effective care

Presentation Format: Poster

Primary Geographic Focus of the Program or Study: MA, USA

Related Web page:

www.massdpms.org/publichealth.html

First Author

Presenting

James J. DiResta, DPM,MPH

Department of Surgery

Anna Jaques Hospital

25 Highland Avenue

Newburyport, MA 01950

Phone Number: 9784652122

Fax Number: 9784650450

Email: james.j.diresta.DMS04@alum.dartmouth.org

Any relevant financial relationships? No

Signed on Sunday, January 21, 2007 by *James J DiResta DPM,MPH*