

uncommon approach, uncommonly effective

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ONLINE REPORT LOOKS AT QUALITY OF CARE THAT LOCAL PHYSICIANS PROVIDE PATIENTS WITH DIABETES

New Website helps local residents understand high-quality diabetes care and improve doctor-patient partnerships

CINCINNATI – A new easy-to-use website allows the tens of thousands of people with Type 2 diabetes in the Greater Cincinnati region to compare the care that local physicians provide. The new website, YourHealthMattersGreaterCincinnati.org, allows visitors to assess the quality of diabetes care delivered in local physician practices, and provides tools and information to help patients understand the steps they can take to better manage their own care.

“For the first-time, people with diabetes in the Cincinnati region can look at information that reflects the results of diabetes care in physician practices while also finding out what they can do to step up and become better managers of their own care,” said Greg Ebel, executive director of the Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati, the not-for-profit organization that sponsors YourHealthMatters. “Managing chronic conditions requires a true partnership between patients and doctors. This site provides both with the tools they need to work together to better manage diabetes. We’ve spent nearly two years developing this information and getting valuable input from local patients, physicians and employers. We’re confident it is a needed and valuable resource.”

YourHealthMattersGreaterCincinnati.org reports on the performance of physician practices based on five goals that have been professionally recommended as critical for adults with diabetes:

1. Controlling Blood Pressure.
2. Lowering Bad Cholesterol.
3. Maintaining Balanced Blood Sugar.
4. Remaining Tobacco-Free.
5. Taking Daily Aspirin.

Users of YourHealthMattersGreaterCincinnati.org learn about these goals and see which doctors’ offices in the region were best able to work with their patients to meet them. Each physician practice is given a summary score of their care, plus individual scores for each goal. More than 95 primary care physician practices, representing 340 physicians throughout the tri-state, voluntarily participated in the report.

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“Doctors and patients have a shared responsibility to work together to improve health care and the physicians who agreed to participate in this report understand that we can’t improve care unless we measure it,” said Robert Graham, MD, program director of *Greater Cincinnati Aligning Forces for Quality*, an initiative of the Collaborative. “National health reform legislation calls for increased reporting on the performance of physicians against known standards of quality care, and increased involvement from patients in improving their health. YourHealthMatters combines these approaches and provides the tools necessary to improve the physician-patient relationships that put our region ahead of the curve.”

YourHealthMattersGreaterCincinnati.org represents a key component of the Health Improvement Collaborative’s *Cincinnati Aligning Forces for Quality* initiative, in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation’s largest foundation focused exclusively on health and health care. Cincinnati is one of the 17 communities hand-picked by the Foundation to improve quality of care, reduce racial and ethnic disparities and provide insights for improving medical care nationwide.

Resources for patients with diabetes on YourHealthMattersGreaterCincinnati.org include:

- Checklist for managing diabetes care
- Doctor and patients goals for treatment
- Daily log to track blood sugar level and food in-take
- List of certified diabetes educators in the tri-state area

YourHealthMatters is a community wide effort to improve the quality of health care in Greater Cincinnati. Physicians, patients, hospitals, clinics, health care, business and civic leaders were key supporters in ensuring that the community has the tools and information to improve care. Although diabetes is the initial focus of the site, additional chronic conditions, patient experience data and hospital care will be added in the future.

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