

Needs Assessment

(please cite relevant supporting data)

Diabetes A1c control is an important component of good Cardiovascular care. With nearly 240,000 diabetic members within Southern California, control of A1c is especially important. However, despite the importance of controlling A1c, SCPMG has performed well below the HEDIS 90th percentile goal of 92%. The highest control rate SCAL has reached is 86 percent, well behind other competitors such as Blue Shield and HealthNet.

Even more concerning is that in 2005, 42% of KP SCAL diabetes patients had not filled or refilled their prescriptions for home testing supplies. Of that 42% (84,000 patients), 75% of them had an A1c of over 9%.

Physician Education Consulting assessed 279 adult primary care providers. The assessment measured both current attitudes and had a knowledge assessment. Some of the findings were:

- 10% of physician respondents indicated that they rarely or never talk to their patients about self-monitoring
- Forty six percent of physicians indicated that they did not have enough time to speak with patients about self-monitoring.
- Only 51% of adult primary care providers selected the appropriate home testing schedule for a given case.
- Only 43% of those who responded could indicate the appropriate blood glucose level for patient who is doing a post-prandial home glucose test.
- Finally, only 10% of physicians in the assessment could explain the relationship between A1c levels and blood glucose levels.