

# Bridging the knowledge gap: A nurse-led diabetes education initiative for optimal patient care across the continuum



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## INTRODUCTION

### Background

- An unsafe discharge occurred with a patient newly diagnosed with diabetes who was new to insulin (NTI).
- In January 2025, an interdisciplinary steer committee was created to improve the education and skills of clinical nurses and patients NTI.

### Purpose

The purpose of this quality/process improvement project focuses on giving the clinical nurse the knowledge, tools, and skills to successfully support diabetic patients that are NTI across the continuum.

**Goal:** A safe transition from the acute care setting to the home environment in collaboration with outpatient resources.

**Framework:** Iowa EBP Model

### Objectives of Poster

1. Identify the components of providing diabetes education to the patients for safe discharge home.
2. Describe new technologies available for diabetes care.

## METHODS

### Gap Analysis:

- Voluntary survey of clinical nurses determined educational needs that would improve knowledge and competency in providing timely and evidence-based education to the patients.
- The team partnered with nurse educators who reviewed results and developed an educational program to increase the knowledge base of clinical nurses and create awareness of the diabetic resources offered by Virtua.
- **Multi Method Approach:** Education via in-person classes, online module, and creation of a resource toolkit for the nurse to utilize when providing education.
- **Diabetic Box Toolkit\*** consisted of:
  - A prototype insulin pen
  - Injection pad
  - Checklist to ensure all necessary topics and instruction were provided
  - Revised diabetic education booklet

**Improved accessibility** to the necessary supplies to provide education and gave patients the **ability to practice** blood glucose monitoring and insulin injection.

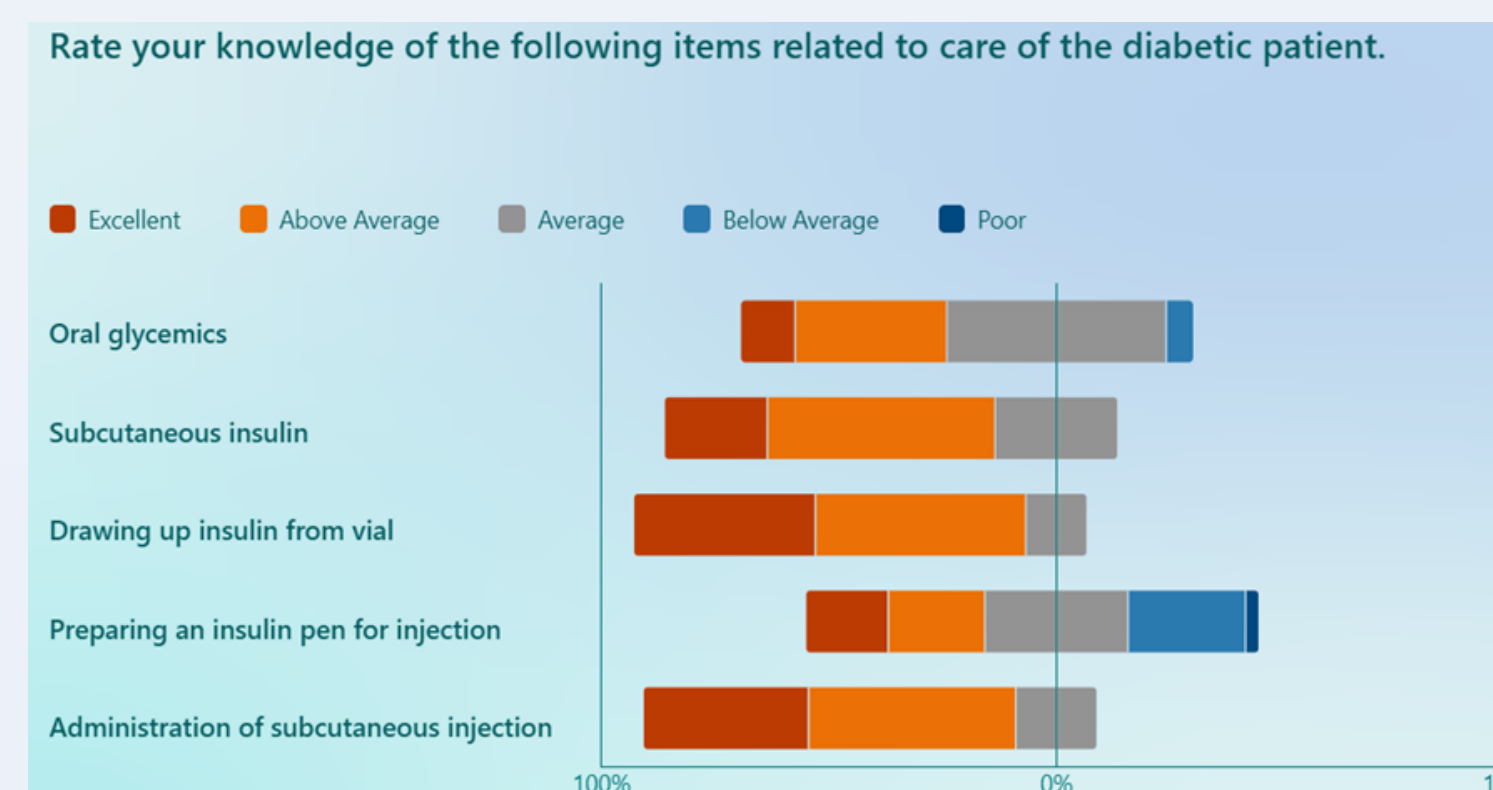
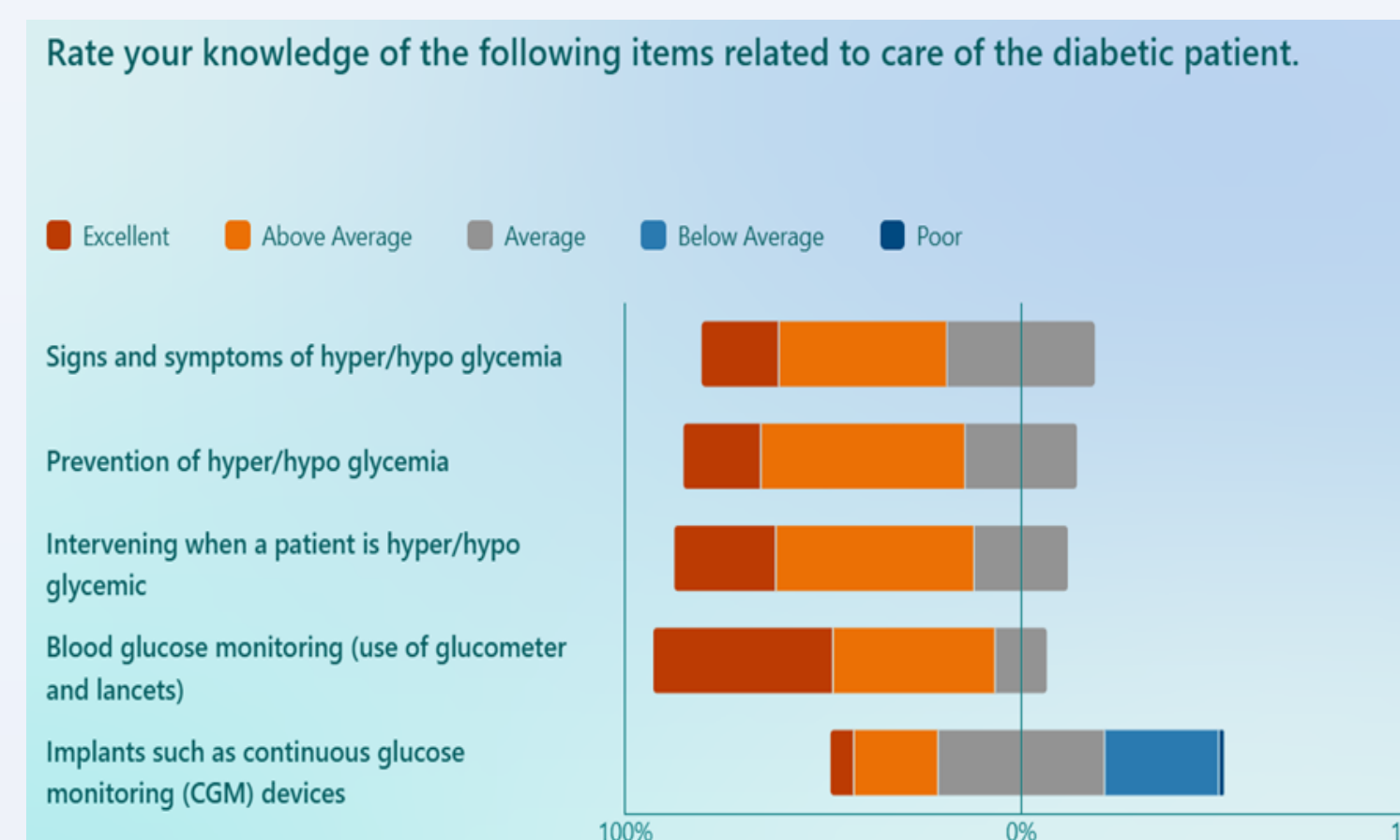
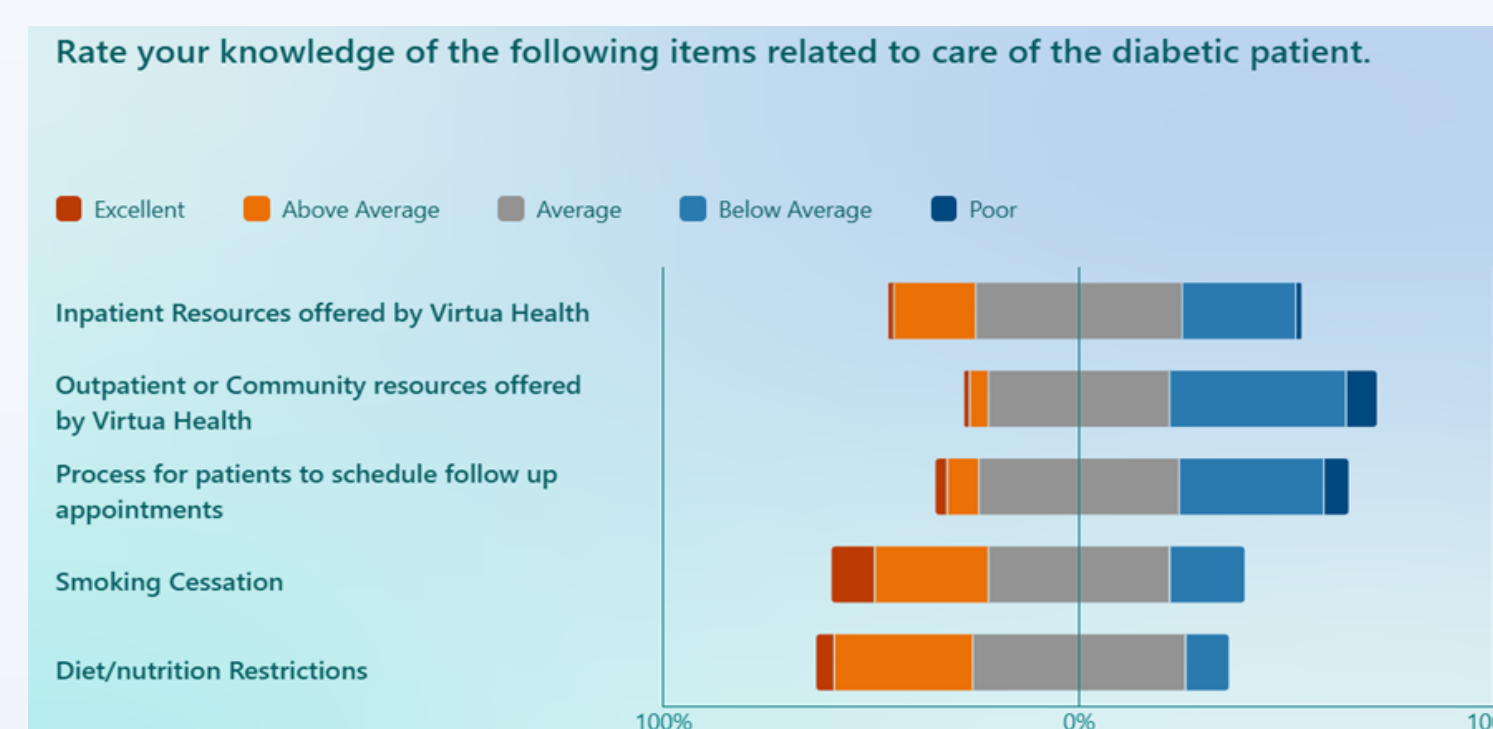


\*At time of printing, live at Marlton (trial division)

## GAP ANALYSIS RESULTS

Clinical nurses reported lack of education and/or comfortability with providing patients with necessary education and performing a safe transition from the acute care setting to the outpatient environment.

Survey will again be provided to participants of the in-person class and results will be compared to the gap analysis results to determine if knowledge and skill improved.



## CONCLUSIONS

- A safety concern was identified based on a patient complaint post-discharge and the interdisciplinary teams collaborated to develop a seamless process for patient education specific to glucose monitoring and insulin administration.
- A gap analysis revealed nurses needed additional education, resources, and supplies to safely teach and discharge diabetic patients.
- Through collaboration with outpatient services, this project has extended across the health system to all divisions to better transition the patient from the acute care setting with the necessary resources.

## REFERENCES

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