HOME HEALTH CARE DIABETIC FOOT EDUCATION, EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT (FEET) PROJECT

PROBLEM: Home Health Care has more than 900 patients on the case load, 60% of them have diabetes. We found that only 47% of these diabetic patients was educated on foot care and no system was in place for foot screening and this was important in order to identify and manage the risks.

AIM: To increase the percentage of diabetic patients educated on foot care from 47% to 75% from 1st quarter of 2012 to 4th quarter of 2013 and to initiate a system for foot screening for early identification and management of risk from 1st to 4th quarter of 2013.

Intervention:
* Trained nursing staff on importance of basic foot care education by utilizing PDSA cycles
* Developed a pocket guide for the staff including 5 educational points: Foot examination, Foot hygiene, Good glycemic control, Appropriate foot wear and Avoid smoking
* Provided educational pamphlets
* Developed and implemented teach back tool
* Developed and implemented diabetic foot care pathway which is approved and posted on the intranet
* Competency assessment of nursing staff on diabetic foot examination in coordination with HMC podiatry clinic
* Conducted inter-rater reliability test
* Established diabetic foot risk register electronically
* Referred patients to appropriate disciplines

RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS:
Currently there are limited screening facilities for community patients with diabetes who have mobility problems. Most of the screening are been conducted in a hospital setting which require patients to travel. This project begins to address some of these issues for people at home with limited mobility.

NEXT STEPS:
* To sustain the improvement in foot care education and to continue to use the teach back tool for foot care education
* To perform foot screening to all diabetic patients on HHCS caseload