To ensure a broad reach and dissemination of the DAWN2™ findings, diabetes education has been offered to healthcare professionals and policy makers in the United States through interactive webinars facilitated by a diabetes expert faculty.

Findings from the first Diabetes Attitudes, Wishes and Needs (DAWN) study initiated in 2001 showed that diabetes care and self-management were considered inadequate by people with diabetes and healthcare professionals. Diabetes experts and researchers launched the DAWN2™ study in 2011 to examine the unmet needs of people with diabetes, their family members, and healthcare providers, building on the experience gained by researchers in the behavioural and psychological sciences since the first DAWN™ study. The aim of DAWN2™ was to increase understanding of each group's needs and foster dialogue about improving involvement of people with diabetes, enhancing self-management practices and providing psychosocial support.

To enable cross-disciplinary dialogue on the important topics of implementing person-centred care in practice, the diabetes healthcare company, Novo Nordisk Inc., invited both healthcare professionals and policy makers to interactive webinars discussing findings and implications from the DAWN2™ study.

In November 2014, Novo Nordisk engaged leading experts from the US diabetes field to speak to healthcare professionals about the results of the DAWN™ Study via web programmes integrated into the diabetes education webinars. Twelve interactive programmes featured new and diverse content, including the concerns of people with diabetes and their family members, which the DAWN2™ study brought to light. Discussions were facilitated by leading diabetes educators and experts such as Steven V. Edelman, MD; Anthony Cannon, MD, FACE; Anne Peters, MD, and Melissa Magwire, RN, CDE.

In January 2015, another webinar was held and overall 500 individuals have participated in the webinars. 94% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the webinar provided new information related to their work, as one participant noted following the webinar: “I will be more proactive in talking with my clients about how diabetes affects their daily life and emotions, and encourage them to include family members in their diabetes plan as well as education.”

EXPLORING THE UNMET NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DIABETES THROUGH DIABETES EDUCATION WEBINARS

Educating healthcare professionals about the psychosocial burden of diabetes

In the US, DAWN2™ showed that diabetes places a significant psychosocial burden on people with diabetes, with 17% of people with diabetes showing signs of depression and 22% reporting diabetes-related distress.1 Diabetes-related distress refers to the worries, concerns or perceived threats associated with diabetes.

The study also showed that 58% of healthcare professionals believe that the psychosocial burden of diabetes should be given a higher priority.2 The unfortunate reality is that often there is not enough time to address psychosocial issues during consultations, and healthcare professionals do not have the necessary training to discuss these issues with people with diabetes. Experts discussed the different areas of the DAWN2™ study, including the psychosocial burden, impact on family and interaction with the healthcare team. Importantly, faculty members also highlighted the positive impact diabetes can have on a person’s life, such as the strengthening of family relationships, gaining the support of others and improvements in lifestyle habits.

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References:
