

# Issues and Opportunities for Computerized Registries in Diabetes

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Diabetes is a major cause of illness, disability, and death in the United States, despite the fact that much is known about how to prevent it and delay or avoid many related complications (1). In *Crossing the Quality Chasm*, the Institute of Medicine concluded that those with chronic conditions are better served by a systematic approach that emphasizes self-management, care planning with a multi-disciplinary team, and ongoing assessment and follow-up (1). The IOM particularly emphasizes the need for “good information about patients, their care, and outcomes in order to improve outcomes”.

A disease registry system, which is part of Bodenheimer’s chronic care model, plays an essential role in improving outcome measures for diabetic patients as well as potentially reducing cost and mis-utilization of health care services. A diabetes registry is a type of clinical information system that is effective in supporting new models for delivering diabetic care. By tracking patient information, a disease registry helps physicians and other members of the care team to identify and reach out to patients with gaps in care.

This presentation will describe the function and use of computerized diabetes registries as one option for improving patient information management. It will mainly focus on stand-alone registry software products (3). While many organizations choose to build registry software themselves, this type of strategy will not be evaluated.

There are innumerable barriers in the process of development, and implementation of a registry system. I will address certain pros and cons of self-built registry systems, public domain registries, and commercial software packages. This presentation will address some barriers that, hopefully, will ease the creation, deployment and maintenance of a diabetes registry system at MetroHealth Medical Center.

This talk is targeted to a broad audience, but is mostly intended to help clinicians and information technology experts get started in their own assessment of computerized tools to improve the management of diabetic patients.

- (1) Institute of Medicine. “Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 2001.
- (2) Bodenheimer et al. Improving Primary Care for Patients With Chronic Illness: The Chronic Care Model, part 2. *JAMA*, 288(15):1909-1914. Oct 16, 2002.
- (3) Chronic Disease Registries: A Product Review, California HealthCare Foundation.