

Abstract

Title: Expanding the Use of Insulin Pump Therapy in Pediatrics

Submitted by: Amanda G. Fridlington, APRN, DNP(c), CPNP

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Project Chairpersons: Patricia Clinton, PhD, RN, ARNP, FAANP

Martha Driessnack, PhD, RN

Ann Marie McCarthy, PhD, RN, PNP, FAAN

Purpose: To expand the use of insulin pump therapy in pediatric patients with type one diabetes mellitus receiving health benefits through Missouri HealthNet.

Data sources: Case reports, personal communication, meta-analyses, RCT's, experimental studies, government and non-government internet resources

Conclusions: Use of insulin pump therapy in pediatric patients has been shown to improve glycemic control, lower rates of hypoglycemia, decrease glycemic variability, and improve quality of life which may decrease immediate and future diabetes-related health care costs.

Implications for practice: A change in current policy will increase access to insulin pump therapy for pediatric patients receiving health benefits through Missouri HealthNet. Lower hemoglobin A1c levels, decreased glycemic variability and hypoglycemia, and improved quality of life in pediatric patients are believed to immediately accompany a change in policy. It is suggested that immediate and long-term direct and indirect diabetes related costs will decrease with expanded use of insulin pump therapy as intensive diabetes management with insulin pumps has been shown to decrease the occurrence of diabetes related complications.