

# Clinical Barometer: The Quality of Diabetes Care

## Overview

Diabetes is an escalating health crisis in the United States. Nearly 24 million Americans suffer from the disease and an estimated 57 million Americans have prediabetes.<sup>1</sup> In 2007, the U.S. spent an estimated \$218 billion on direct and indirect costs for diabetes and prediabetes.<sup>2</sup> Given the human and economic toll diabetes is exacting on the nation, we must make fundamental changes to our system of health care.

Measurement is critical to improving the quality of health care and ultimately enables better detection, treatment and outcomes. The Clinical Barometer assesses the current state of diabetes measurement in the U.S. and identifies opportunities for building upon and improving what is already being done.

The research, conducted by the Jefferson School of Population Health, examines the current state of quality assessment activity that targets diabetes and develops strategies to enhance the use of measurements to improve care.

## Objectives

The Clinical Barometer has the following objectives:

- Complete a thorough evaluation of clinical diabetes quality measurement, its utilization by key stakeholders and its impact on patient care;
- Determine key strengths, weaknesses and gaps in current measurement activities;
- Identify opportunities to expand the scope, depth and impact of these efforts; and
- Develop practical and meaningful strategies to improve the overall state of diabetes quality measurement and patient care.

## Methodology

There are two components to the Clinical Barometer research:

- An environmental scan performed to identify current diabetes quality measures. The scan revealed nearly 150 distinct measures, including measures from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) National Quality Measures Clearinghouse, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), American Medical Association (AMA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Diabetes Fact Sheet, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Dall, T.M., Zhang, Y, Chen, Y. et al. The Economic Burden Of Diabetes. *Health Affairs*. 29, (2); 2010.

- In-depth qualitative Interviews conducted with thought leaders whose measures were reviewed in the environmental scan. Additional interviews were conducted with key stakeholders involved in the endorsement, promotion or utilization of quality measures. Interviews focused on a wide-range of topics, including:
  - Organization's experience developing and using measures
  - Perception of the strengths and weaknesses of specific measures
  - Thoughts about the impact of quality measures
  - Expectations and recommendations for the future use of diabetes quality measurement

## **Benchmarking Change**

The Clinical Barometer is part of Novo Nordisk's United States Diabetes Barometer, an initiative designed to evaluate the current state of diabetes in three critical indicators: societal, economic and clinical. The United States Diabetes Barometer serves as a comprehensive, authoritative national benchmark against which we can measure behavior change, policy change and momentum for further strategic system improvements.

Research commissioned by Novo Nordisk through its Changing Diabetes® leadership initiative.

Novo Nordisk is dedicated to changing diabetes by acting as a partner and catalyst for change in its mission to improve the way diabetes is managed and, ultimately, defeated.