

# Management of Diabetes Mellitus

The following guideline applies to patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus. It recommends specific interventions for periodic medical assessment, laboratory tests and education to guide effective patient self-management.

Eligible Population	Key Components	Recommendation and Level of Evidence	Frequency
Patients 18-75 years of age with type 1 or type 2 diabetes mellitus	Periodic assessment	<p>Assessment should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Height, weight, BMI, blood pressure <b>[A]</b> (adult target of &lt; 130/80)</li> <li>Assess cardiovascular risks (smoking, hypertension, dyslipidemia, sedentary lifestyle, obesity, stress, family history, age &gt; 40)</li> <li>Comprehensive foot exam (including monofilament testing annually) <b>[B]</b></li> <li>Screen for depression <b>[D]</b></li> <li>Dilated eye exam by ophthalmologist or optometrist <b>[B]</b>, or digiscope <b>[B]</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least annually and more frequently as needed</li> <li>In the absence of retinopathy repeat in 2 years</li> </ul>
	Laboratory tests	<p>Tests should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A1C <b>[D]</b></li> <li>Urine microalbumin measurement <b>[D]</b></li> <li>Serum creatinine and calculated GFR <b>[D]</b></li> <li>Fasting lipid profile</li> </ul>	A1C 2 - 4 times annually based on individual therapeutic goal ; other tests at least annually
	Education, counseling and risk factor modification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive diabetes self-management education (DSME) from a collaborative team or diabetic educator if available</li> <li>Education should be individualized, based on the National Standards for DSME<sup>1</sup><b>[B]</b> and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of patient knowledge, attitudes, self-management skills and health status; strategies for making health behavior changes and addressing psychosocial concerns <b>[C]</b></li> <li>Description of diabetes disease process and treatment; safe and effective use of medications; prevention, detection and treatment of acute and chronic complications</li> <li>Importance of nutrition management and regular physical activity <b>[A]</b></li> <li>Role of self-monitoring of blood glucose in glycemic control <b>[A]</b></li> <li>Cardiovascular risk reduction</li> <li>Smoking cessation intervention <b>[B]</b> and secondhand smoke avoidance <b>[C]</b></li> <li>Self-care of feet <b>[B]</b>; preconception counseling <b>[D]</b>; encourage patients to receive dental care <b>[D]</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	At diagnosis and as needed
Medical recommendations	<p><b>Care should focus on smoking, hypertension, lipids and glycemic control:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medications for tobacco dependence unless contraindicated</li> <li>Treatment of hypertension using up to 3-4 anti-hypertensive medications to achieve adult target of &lt; 130 systolic <b>[B]</b> and &lt; 80 diastolic <b>[A]</b></li> <li>Prescription of ACE inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker in patients with hypertension or albuminuria <b>[A]</b><sup>2</sup></li> <li>Statin therapy for primary prevention against macrovascular complications in patients with diabetes who are ≥ age 40 or who have an LDL-C ≥100 mg/dl <b>[A]</b><sup>3</sup></li> <li>Anti-platelet therapy <b>[A]</b>: low dose aspirin daily for primary prevention in adults at increased cardiovascular risk with type 1 <b>[C]</b> and type 2 <b>[A]</b> diabetes, unless contraindicated</li> <li>Adjust the plan to eventually achieve normal or near-normal glycemia with an A1C goal for most patients of &lt; 7%. Less stringent treatment goals may be appropriate for patients with a history of severe hypoglycemia, patients with limited life expectancies, very young children or older adults and individuals with comorbid conditions. More stringent treatment goals (i.e., a normal A1C &lt; 6%) for individual patients and in pregnancy. <b>Note:</b> Insulin and sulfonureas sometimes result in weight gain.</li> <li>Assurance of appropriate immunization status (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, influenza, pneumococcal vaccine) <b>[C]</b></li> </ul>	At each visit until therapeutic goals are achieved	

<sup>1</sup> See [http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/vol31/Supplement\\_1/](http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/vol31/Supplement_1/)

<sup>2</sup> Consider referral of patients with serum creatinine value >2.0 mg/dl (adult value) or persistent albuminuria to nephrologist for evaluation.

<sup>3</sup> Target LDL-C < 100 mg/dl **[B]**. For patients with overt CVD, a lower LDL-C goal of < 70 mg/dl is an option **[B]**.

**Levels of evidence for the most significant recommendations:** A = randomized controlled trials; B = controlled trials, no randomization; C = observational studies; D = opinion of expert panel

This guideline lists core management steps. It is based on several sources, including the 2008 American Diabetes Association Clinical Practice Recommendations ([www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)). Individual patient considerations and advances in medical science may supersede or modify these recommendations.