

## What is the Australian Primary Care Collaborative?

The Australian Primary Care Collaborative is an **improvement** programme. The APCC uses a methodology based upon small cycles of change and this methodology has been used successfully in healthcare settings across Australia, Scotland and England. The programme is focussed on improving diabetes patient care and improving prevention & self management. These improvements will be made through the sharing of knowledge locally and throughout the country. Funding of \$4000 is given practices at two stages of the program to help with possible costs associated with making the improvements, e.g. locum cover or admin support. Throughout your practice involvement with the program you will be supported by your locally based Collaborative Project Manager.

## The APCC Improvement Model and PDSAs

Before attempting to implement any change, it is essential to answer the following questions:

1. What are we trying to accomplish?
  - *Know exactly what improvements are desired*
2. How will we know that change is an improvement?
  - *Without measurement, it is impossible to tell whether there has been an improvement*
3. What changes can we make that can lead to an improvement?
  - *Decide exactly what changes will bring about the improvements*

**After These Decisions Are Made We Can Use The Small Cycles of Change:**

**PDSA** is **Plan, Do, Study, Act** – breaking down improvement ideas into manageable chunks and testing changes on a small scale. If the change doesn't work a return to the way it was does not have any major impact. If it does work, one PDSA invariably leads on to another and, because they are so small, they reduce the anxiety to change. A PDSA can never be too small. Anybody can carry out a PDSA and the whole practice team can become involved, so team members can take ownership of PDSAs and ideas, which ensures that the improvements can take place as a team endeavour.

## Improving Patient Care

We recognise that some practices may have undertaken significant work on improving care for patients with diabetes. The APCC has distilled both expert and practical learning on changing and improving practice based systems for diabetes care. This has been developed into a set of change principles and associated change ideas to further enhance that work.

## Monthly Measures (Recorded throughout the 18 Months)

Monthly data is submitted via our online reporting system to the Collaborative to assess the effect of the changes that you are trying out.

## Diabetes Management – Measures

1. The percentage of people on the Diabetes Register whose HbA1c has been recorded within the previous 12 months AND whose last recorded HbA1c result was less than or equal to 7%.
2. The percentage of annual cycle of care elements recorded for people on the Diabetes Register within the previous 12 months.

## Diabetes Prevention – Measures

1. Gives the percentage of eligible\* people within the clinical database that have had a diabetes risk assessment performed.
2. The percentage of modifiable risk elements recorded for people in the eligible age groups\* that do not have any of the chronic diseases: diabetes, COPD, CVD or Chronic Renal failure.

## PDSAs

- Practices also submit at least one PDSA per month on each topic

### **Practice Commitment**

The main commitment is for practices to engage and work with the collaborative to improve over the 18 months of the programme. The individual components are:

- Improving Monthly Measures
- Monthly PDSAs
- Local Project Steering Group Meetings
- NSW State & Virtual Workshops

### **Summary**

- 18 Month quality improvement programme
- Support of local Project Manager throughout
- Practice Funding of \$4000 over 18 months
- Two Learning Workshops in Sydney: 5<sup>th</sup> March & 17<sup>th</sup> September
- 40 Cat 1 points per workshop
- Sharing of ideas and experiences between local/national APCC practices
- Two main focus areas – Improving diabetes prevention and management

**Throughout this programme, your local project manager, dedicated to collaborative work, will support you.**

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# **Australian Primary Care Collaborative Wave 6**

**Information**