Overview

This standard covers the activities associated with assessing the suitability of insulin pump therapy for individuals with Type 1 diabetes. This standard may follow from a regular review of the health of an individual with diabetes. Currently, insulin pump therapy is an option available in a few specialist centres and is a treatment that should be initiated only by a trained specialist team.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.
Assess the suitability of insulin pump therapy for an individual with Type 1 diabetes

**Performance criteria**

**You must be able to:**

P1 review the recent medical history of an individual referred for insulin pump therapy against established national criteria for this treatment and any locally determined requirements

P2 notify the individual if you judge the treatment unsuitable and offer a consultation to discuss your assessment and to advise on any action in preparation for a subsequent re-assessment of the suitability of insulin pump therapy

P3 subject to satisfying the treatment criteria, arrange to see the individual, and where appropriate a carer, to discuss insulin pump therapy and to assess the individual’s capacity for training

P4 during the consultation:
   
   P4.1 provide general information about the nature, benefits and risks of insulin pump therapy
   
   P4.2 explain what the individual will need to do in order for the treatment to be successful
   
   P4.3 establish whether the individual has a good record of contact with the diabetes team and review their history of self-care
   
   P4.4 make an assessment of the individual’s commitment, motivation and capacity to manage pump therapy

P5 in discussion with the individual, explain your assessment of the suitability of the treatment for them and, if you believe that the treatment is suitable, jointly decide whether and when to proceed

P6 if you jointly decide to proceed, arrange for the individual and carer to attend an education or training session

P7 if you assess that the treatment is unsuitable for the individual, discuss alternative options for the individual and, if appropriate, refer them to another member of the healthcare team to discuss these options

P8 make an accurate record of the outcome of your assessment and the decision to proceed, or not to proceed, that can be followed by other members of the healthcare team, the individual and carer
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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 national guidelines on diabetes management, education and service delivery
K2 national and local guidelines for continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion
K3 theories of the causes of diabetes
K4 signs and symptoms of diabetes, including WHO criteria for diagnosis
K5 normal and abnormal blood glucose and HbA1c values
K6 how to monitor glucose levels, HbA1c, blood pressure
K7 the importance and effects of patient education and self management
K8 the psychological impact of diabetes, at diagnosis and in the long term
K9 the psychology of teaching and learning and of behavioural change
K10 how to work in partnership with patients and carers
K11 the social, cultural and economic background of the patient/carer group
K12 the impact of nutrition and physical activity on diabetes
K13 the carbohydrate content of foods
K14 the effects of smoking, alcohol and illicit drugs
K15 the effects of, and how to manage, intercurrent illness or surgery
K16 how to avoid and how to manage hypoglycaemia and hyperglycaemia
K17 the medications used to manage diabetes
K18 continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion pumps and their operation
K19 the current theories for calculating insulin to carbohydrate ratios, insulin sensitivity and basal insulin doses
K20 the long term complications of diabetes and when they are likely to occur
K21 how to examine feet and assess risk status
K22 how to monitor cardiovascular risk
K23 how to monitor for renal disease
K24 how to monitor for diabetic retinopathy
K25 the law and good practice guidelines on consent
K26 your role in the healthcare team and the role of others
K27 local guidelines on diabetes healthcare
K28 local referral pathways
K29 local systems for recording patient information
K30 quality assurance systems
K31 the process of notification for legal and insurance purposes
K32 sources of practitioner and patient information on diabetes
K33 contact details of local and national support groups
K34 how individuals can access local facilities for exercise and physical activity, education and community activities
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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning
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