

# Diabetes Health Literacy Toolkit for New Graduate Nurses

(Reducing Failure to Rescue Rates Related to Hypoglycemia)

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## Background

The National Council State Board of Nursing found that many graduating nurses though pass the NCLEX-RN are unprepared to deal with many of the complexes of the profession. It has been identified that many lack critical reasoning skills especially on the medical-surgical units to promptly identify patient deterioration and early warning signs (Vermont Nurse Connection, 2017). Research has shown that this problem leads to frustration and attrition of up to 27% in the first year of practice of these new graduate nurses (Hussein, Everett, Ramjan, Hu and Salamonson, 2017)

Statistics shows that about 25% of hospitalized patient have diabetes and about 18% experience Hypoglycemia of blood glucose less than 60mg/dl. Severe Hypoglycemia (less than 40mg/dl) occurs in another 5% of these patients. The symptoms of deterioration are often missed as many critically ill patients may have a condition known as hypoglycemia unawareness and many others lack the knowledge of hypoglycemia symptoms (Wexler, Meigs, Cagliero, Nathan, & Grant, 2007).

## Problem

This project is to address the issue of “Failure to Rescue” by new graduate nurses of hospitalized patients whose condition is deteriorating due to hypoglycemia.

## Objectives

**New graduate nurses will:**

- focus on identifying episodes of hypoglycemia in hospitalized diabetes patients
- take appropriate action in a timely manner, to avoid negative outcomes.
- utilize health literacy strategies as a tool to identify risk factors and use it to educate patients to increase their knowledge and comprehension of information provided.

## Acknowledgement



## Project Plan

To create a Diabetes Health Literacy Toolkit to assist new graduate nurses in identifying hypoglycemia in hospitalized patients and to educate patients on recognition of the signs and symptoms.

## Toolkit

Developed to provide further resources to help increase skill sets to reduce hypoglycemia rates in hospitalized patients. <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-osdmyiTXWsoSN4eykXXGle3YZhYXTja>

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