

Diabetic Foot Disease: from PRevention to treatment to IMproved patient Outcomes (DFD PRIMO)

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Overall Aim

The overall goal of the training programme is to train a team of health care professionals from different health professions to PhD level in order to provide a strong evidence base for prevention and treatment options whilst improving the care of people with diabetes related foot problems. One doctoral study is being undertaken in the Discipline of Health Promotion by doctoral candidate Lauren Connell *'Developing health professionals' health literacy competencies to support patients in diabetes self-management'*.

Background

Health Literacy is a public health issue and evolving concept that describes the personal skills and environment that enables individuals to obtain, understand and utilise information to make decisions that impact health status. The literature to date focuses on functional health literacy which comprises individual's basic reading, writing and numeracy skills, however, there has been increasing emphasis on the development of the interactive communicative dimension. It has been suggested that interactive health literacy may be more influential than functional health literacy in influencing self-efficacy in those with diabetes. It has been shown that in diabetes care, improved patient-practitioner communication has the ability to improve patient diabetes behaviour, self-care and diabetes specific outcomes. This research focuses on developing the health literacy skills of health professionals working in diabetes care to facilitate patients' diabetes self-management.

Doctoral Study Aim

To develop a health literacy education programme for health professionals, to empower patients with diabetes in optimising self-management.

Objectives

1. To identify and map health literacy competencies and health literacy related communication skills educational interventions for qualified health professionals.
2. To undertake an e-Delphi consensus to derive a minimum core criterion set of items to be used to develop a HL education programme for qualified health professionals.
3. To develop a health literacy education programme for health professionals in diabetes care.
4. To assess the feasibility of a health literacy education programme for health professionals in diabetes care.

Design and Methods

The research will be undertaken in three phases using a sequential mixed methods design.

- Phase 1 comprises a scoping review to inform the development of an educational intervention for qualified health professionals.
- Phase 2 incorporates an adapted e-Delphi study with health professionals on health literacy competencies with an additional PPI component.
- The results of Phases 1 and 2 will be integrated and a prototype health literacy education intervention will be developed for qualified health professionals working in diabetes care.
- In Phase 3 the prototype intervention will undergo a feasibility assessment with health professionals.

Public Patient Involvement

Those attending basic adult education programmes will be actively involved in the development of the prototype programme.

Results

- Phase 1 Scoping Review has been completed. This review mapped existing education programmes regarding health literacy and health literacy related communication skills. Programme characteristics were identified to inform future intervention development. A gap was identified in qualified health professional education in health literacy, specifically in diabetes care.
- Phase 2 E-Delphi Study has been completed. Two rounds were completed where consensus was reached on forty-five health literacy competencies in the first round, and the remaining competencies reached consensus in Round 2. Programme characteristics such as knowledge acquisition deemed appropriate included case based learning.

Dissemination

Website <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/ariw/dfdprimo/>

Twitter [DFD PrImO \(@DfdPrimo\) / Twitter](#)

HRB <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/approved-awards/awards-approved/award/diabetic-foot-disease-from-prevention-to-treatment-to-improved-patient-outcomes-dfd-primo/>

<https://stories.nuigalway.ie/diabetic-foot-disease/index.html>

ESPRIT Research Group UCC <https://www.ucc.ie/en/esprit/research/cda-diabeticfootdisease/>