PIII-42: Review of the Roles and Activities of Community Health Advisors in Diabetes Care

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Abstract:
Introduction: The purpose of this review is to enumerate findings from an integrative literature review conducted to identify the roles, activities, and theoretical basis of interventions by community health advisors (CHA) for improving diabetes self-management care of patients living with type 2 diabetes (T2DM).


Results: Inclusion criteria were met by 15 articles. Terms in the literature for CHA included: “lay health educator, peer advisor, peer coach, community health worker, community diabetes advisor, community health ambassador, church diabetes advisor, and peer supporter or buddy.” Typically CHA were patients themselves living with T2DM. Roles of CHA included: educator, case manager, role model, mentor, advocate, program facilitator, and liaison. Activities of CHA included: coordinating and publicizing educational programs, conducting educational courses for patients, serving as a link between patients and healthcare professionals, individualized counseling, and leading group peer support meetings. CHA theoretical interventions were based on the premise of providing culturally appropriate care and the resolution of health disparities within minority populations. Examination of CHA effectiveness revealed mixed results across studies. Examples of outcome criteria examined included improvements in: knowledge level, glycated hemoglobin levels, low density lipoprotein levels, blood pressure, and physical activity.

Discussion & Conclusions: CHA provide culturally appropriate interventions to promote and restore health and prevent disease utilizing community resources and social support. CHA serve as links between the community and healthcare providers, making them especially important in underserved and rural populations. Several CHA studies demonstrated statistically significant differences between intervention and control groups, suggesting their effectiveness in improving outcomes for patients living with T2DM.

Abstract History:
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

Financial Disclosure:
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