



Collaboration Strategies for PPOD Providers

Below are some tips for integrating the information and approach in the PPOD Guide and other PPOD Toolkit materials into your routine practice.

Collaborate With Other PPOD Providers

Network With Local Providers

- Get to know the providers in your community—some may hold diabetes classes or consult at local clinics.
- Network with local associations and local chapters of national associations, including groups such as Lions Clubs and professional membership organizations, such as:
 - » American Optometric Association
 - » American Dental Association
 - » American Podiatric Medical Association
 - » American Pharmacists Association
- Create a referral network with other PPOD providers, as well as other health care providers who practice a team care approach.

Partner With Select Providers

- Form a partnership with other providers within your specialty to create a larger network with specialized services or products.
- Choose the providers you include in your network wisely. Select the right balance of specialists for your patient mix.
- Monitor the performance of the providers you select for your network. Identify each provider's strengths, weaknesses, qualities, and efficiency.
- Consider setting aside time for integrated patient care discussions once you've established your PPOD network.

Promote Your Network

- Present about PPOD at conferences and local meetings.
 - » Talk with your local hospital or medical society about presenting at hospital grand rounds.
 - » Try to engage multiple types of providers as a unique way of getting people involved.
- Consider creating a local PPOD coalition in your state or community.
 - » Visit the [Massachusetts Diabetes Education Program Coalition](#) website to see an example of a state PPOD coalition.

Create Custom Materials

- Create a website that lists local associations and member providers.
- Tailor national materials to fit your coalition or practice.
 - » The [National Diabetes Education Program \(NDEP\)](#) has a wealth of diabetes resources that you can tailor to fit your coalition or personal practice. Feel free to put your logo on NDEP materials.
 - » You can download and tailor the [checklist](#) for care by adding your office information. Give this checklist to your patients, and they can then bring it to all of their provider visits to document the recommended interventions (which may help in pay-for-performance situations). The checklist can help foster better communication among all of the providers.



- » NDEP's [Partners & Community Organizations](#) web page has tips on how you can partner with NDEP, co-brand materials, and benefit from NDEP's wealth of resources.
- » You can use the NDEP materials to help educate your patients about diabetes, its complications, and even ways to prevent type 2 diabetes.

Collaborate With Other Members of the Health Care Team

Below are some ways to start building the team care approach into your practice.

Educate Others About What You Do

- Partner with primary care providers and their local organizations, such as the ones below, to provide mutual continuing education:
 - » National medical societies
 - » State medical societies
 - » County medical societies
 - » Local specialty chapters of national associations such as the American Diabetes Association and the American Association of Diabetes Educators
- Invite local family practice physicians or diabetes educators to present at your local dental, podiatry, optometry, and pharmacy groups. Ask about presenting at their local meetings.
- Coordinate efforts to present at consumer diabetes education programs.
- Use the PPOD Working Together to Manage [Diabetes PowerPoint Presentation](#) in the PPOD Toolkit.

Connect With Other Health Professionals

- Work together with local health care providers to develop a diabetes education resource guide for your community.
- Work with your local health department.

- Always follow up with the referring primary care provider (via e-mail, letter, phone), with the patient's permission, after you have examined the person with diabetes to establish closer relationships.
- Reach out to PPOD professional schools and other health care provider schools (e.g., medical schools, nursing schools).



Create a Referral System

- Facilitate an integrated system by setting up referral lists for routine preventive care as well as for urgent needs. Use the following tips to establish a referral system:
 - » Create a network for preventive care and urgent referrals.
 - » Contact primary care and specialty providers to discuss criteria and ensure that procedures are in place for seeing a person who is referred for preventive care or on an urgent basis.
 - » Make a list of providers, case managers, phone numbers, and other contact information; keep it handy for quick reference. Consider giving handouts with referral information to individuals or calling clinics directly for urgent referrals.
 - » Check the [Practice Transformation for Physicians and Health Care Teams](#) for tools to help you set up a referral system.