



New California Health Partnership to Tackle Diabetes

Anthem Blue Cross, California Optometric Association and California Primary Care Association have formed a new coalition dedicated to providing more effective care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with diabetes.

Diabetes has reached an epidemic level in California and it's only growing worse:

- More than half the state's population has diabetes or is at risk for developing the chronic, eyesight-robbing condition.
- More Californians are dying from diabetes. The death rate is 18 times higher today than it was just under two decades ago among individuals under the age of 55.
- In 2014, there were over 6,000 amputations related to diabetes in California.
- Nearly one in three adults with diabetes has diabetic retinopathy, a leading cause of blindness.

The new collaborative is now implementing an innovative model that leverages health plan resources with local health clinics and optometrists. The goal of this effort is to ensure that all Anthem Blue Cross Medi-Cal members with diabetes are seen by a health care provider and receive a needed eye exam at least once a year. This approach was successfully piloted last spring in Sacramento. In the model, Anthem Blue Cross of California conducted targeted outreach to over 500 diabetic patients to make appointments at PeachTree community health center. Participants were offered free transportation. For those who came in, they received "one-stop-shop" comprehensive diabetes screenings and eye exams, as well as other health care services. Of the 42 patients seen that day, nearly 25% had diabetic retinopathy, and over 50% had other sight-threatening eye conditions.

As the Sacramento project continues to provide ongoing outreach, the central valley is slated to be the next target area for the collaborative. The second diabetes clinic day is scheduled to take place on November 11 at Clinica Sierra Vista in Fresno. Similar to the Sacramento clinic, members will receive comprehensive diabetes screenings, including eye exams.

Getting the at-risk patients through the door is one enormous hurdle; keeping them connected to care is another. That is why our partnership is a novel approach; helping patients build longstanding relationships with their community health center and health care providers who will help them manage their diabetes for years to come.

We invite you to learn more about our efforts and to participate as our coalition reaches further into California communities with innovative and life-saving strategies. Please consider joining us in Fresno at our next diabetes clinic day to see our efforts first-hand to combat the far-too prevalent disease.

Diabetes Clinic Day Details:

Saturday, November 11

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Clinica Sierra Vista

Elm/Family Community Center

2740 S. Elm Avenue, Fresno, CA

***Diabetes clinic day is open for patients from 8:00 am – 7:00 pm**

To learn more about our efforts or if you are interested in attending the diabetes clinic day in Fresno, please contact Kara Corches at kcorches@coavision.org.