

Priming for Pumps – Considerations for a Provincial Insulin Pump Program

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Provincially funded insulin pump programs (IPP) have been initiated in some provinces with varying degrees of preparation. The NS government recently initiated a process to inform policy makers regarding issues around a potential IPP. Here we report the results of 7 focus groups and a workshop conducted as part of this process. Separate focus groups were conducted with groups of health professionals (HP) from across NS - 13 diabetes educators (nurses and dietitians); 9 pediatricians/ pediatric endocrinologists; 2 adult endocrinologists; and 4 parents of children using pump therapy. HPs were asked exploratory questions related to their current pump experiences and opinion on an IPP, eligibility criteria and structure; their needs and the roles of various stakeholders in developing, delivering, and maintaining an IPP. Transcripts were reviewed for themes. These were presented and developed at a workshop of similar participants from across NS in June 2010.

Most HP and parents were positive about the potential for an IPP. All HP groups identified the need for clear, standardized eligibility and follow-up criteria. Many expressed concerns over the age of eligibility and ongoing coverage into adulthood. Concern over workload and resource implications and impacts beyond Diabetes Centres, HP education and maintenance of competence were common themes. At the workshop a list of eligibility criteria was generated with $\geq 90\%$ agreement. A smaller group of potential criteria showed less agreement.

Valuable input was obtained and will be used to create pump therapy standards in NS.

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