



Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital DALLAS

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To: Judy Travis, RDN, MBA, MHA– Director of Food and Nutrition Services
From: Caitlin Finton, RDN, MS—Clinical Dietitian
Subject: Proposal for Financial Assistance to Continue Education
Date: April 10, 2017

Proposal for Financial Assistance to Continue Education

The purpose of this memo is to request financial assistance in the amount of \$1383.95 to assist in obtaining a Certified Diabetes Educator license. Acquiring this certification will expand my scope of practice and improve diabetic patient outcomes.

Introduction

According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 29 million people in the United States have diabetes (Diabetes Latest, 2014). With this disease on the rise, it is important to have specialized care available in order to reduce associated risks such as cardiovascular diseases, vision loss, kidney failure, stroke, amputation of limbs, and premature death (Diabetes Latest, 2014). As a top-ranked hospital in the Dallas area, it is crucial that Texas Health Presbyterian continues to provide the highest level of care for each patient. In order to maintain high standards of excellence in patient care and outcomes, the healthcare team must be adequately educated.

As a clinical dietitian, I am able to provide nutrition education to my diabetes patients, but feel I can have greater potential to improve patients' satisfaction, outcomes, and overall knowledge of diabetes after becoming a Certified Diabetes Educator. In the field of nutrition and dietetics, specialized care and individualization of treatment is vital. This certification will give me the knowledge necessary to ensure patients are receiving individualized interventions and treatments, specifically for Type I, Type II, and gestational diabetes.

In this proposal, I will explain the need for this certification, my qualifications and experiences, give a brief summary of the training course, and will also provide an itemized expense chart for the requested \$1383.95.

The Need

According to Figure 1, in 2012, 86 million adults in the United States had prediabetes. Prediabetes can be controlled. However, due to lack of knowledge, many of those 86 million Americans will progress to Type 2 Diabetes. I consult patients almost daily who are borderline diabetic, and I would love to be able to transfer the appropriate skills and knowledge necessary for them to halt or slow the progression to Type 2 Diabetes. Boren, Fitzner, Panhalkar, and Specker (2009) explain receiving diabetes education is effective for controlling illness and optimizing health. Additionally, Certified Diabetes Educators go beyond basic interventions, focusing on implementation of behavior change, leading to improved blood glucose control, and overall health.

90% to 95%

of all diabetes cases are type 2.

Type 1 Diabetes



Type 2 Diabetes

86 million:

Number of adults in the U.S. who had prediabetes in 2012.

Figure 1: Diabetes Statistics

Source: Pietrangelo, A. (2016). *Healthline.com*

Qualifications and Experience

According to National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (2014), eligibility for the Certified Diabetes Educator examination requires several prerequisites including:

- Must be a registered dietitian with the Commission on Dietetic Registration
- Must have documented and tracked professional practice experience in a diabetes management position for a minimum of two years
- Must obtain 1,000 hours of diabetes self-management education experience
- Must currently complete a minimum of four hours per week in diabetes self-management practice

I have currently been employed as a full-time registered dietitian at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital for three years, and earned my Master's of Nutrition and Dietetics last spring. Over the last three years, I have also successfully documented all my professional practice experience in diabetes self-management necessary for taking the next step to becoming a Certified Diabetes Educator. I believe I am appropriately

qualified and well prepared to take on this training course and the examination to follow. I also feel confident that this training course will not deter me from completing my current job responsibilities in any way.

Budget

In order to become a Certified Diabetes Educator, I will need financial assistance. Granted your approval of \$1383.95, I plan to obtain this certification through the American Association of Diabetes Educators. This association offers a nine-week, online training course to equip healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills required for becoming a Certified Diabetes Educator. In addition, the required text, *Diabetes Self-Management Education Desk Reference*, will be necessary in successful completion of the training course along with the *Review Guide for the Certified Diabetes Educator Exam*.

Training Course	\$589
Desk Reference, 4 th Edition	\$249
Review Guide	\$95.95
Examination Fee	\$350
Processing Fee	\$100
Total	\$1383.95

Table 1: Expense Chart

With this training and certification, I feel I can expand my scope of practice, provide better care for my diabetes patients, and further the mission of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital. In *Table 1*, I have provided a chart identifying necessary materials and fees, along with the total requested amount.

Conclusion

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas is recognized as a top four hospital in the Dallas area. In order to maintain this status, it is vital to have members of the healthcare team educated in specialized fields, so patients continue to receive the best care possible. By partaking in a training course to become a Certified Diabetes Educator, I feel I can aid in continuing patient satisfaction, improve health outcomes, and contribute to patients' overall well-being. However, this will not be possible without financial assistance of the \$1383.95 I have requested. If you wish to further discuss my proposal or have any questions, please feel to contact me by email, caitlinfinton29@gmail.com, or by phone, (318) 461-2339. Thank you for your time and consideration. It is greatly appreciated.

References

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