



# 2021 LEAD Capstone Poster Session

Integrated Practice Unit:  
Diabetes and Infectious Diseases  
Uma Gunasekaran, MD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Internal Medicine





# Abstract

Infections in people with diabetes mellitus, especially with poor glycemic control, have a high mortality rate. With improved glycemic control, this can be reduced. But, due to frequent wound care or intravenous antibiotics appointments, separate appointments for glycemic control are difficult to attend, more so in the indigent population. Creating an integrated Diabetes-Infectious Disease clinical practice allows for improved glycemic control in the setting of aggressive infection treatment.





# Objectives

- Create an integrated Diabetes- Infectious Disease clinical practice
- Improve diabetes education in patients seen in the Infectious Diseases clinic



# Background Information

- Infections in persons with poorly controlled diabetes have increase mortality
- Having multiple appointments on the same day that are in tandem reduces barriers to care such as transportation, time spent away from work, and improves patient satisfaction (as noted in other integrated diabetes clinical practices previously)





# Specific Aims

- Create an integrated clinical practice unit with Diabetes and Infectious Diseases
- Create opportunities to provide integrated care for patients who are virtually seen in the Infectious Diseases clinic to receive diabetes care.





# Project Plan

- Create a process for identifying patients with hyperglycemia in the Infectious Diseases clinic
- Create a process for how to have a Diabetes provider see the patient in tandem on the days that they are seen in the Infectious Diseases clinic
- Identify what nursing staff education and support is needed to create a workflow to move the patient between both clinical practices





# Application of What You Learned at LEAD

- I have a better understanding of working with people who have other DISC behavioral styles
- I have changed the way that I think about negotiating for things that I want.



# Proposed Budget

- None; would use existing staff and providers to create more efficient workflows that created higher show rates





# Innovation and Significance

- Creating specialty integrated clinical practice units is an efficient, patient-centered method of providing care to persons with multiple, complex medical conditions.
- Integrated practice units are not common and difficult to construct and this would be my 3<sup>rd</sup> such endeavor in the setting of 2 previously successful ventures.



# References

van Harten, WH. “Turning teams and pathways into integrated practice units: Appearance characteristics and added value.” *International Journal of Care Coordination*. 21 (4): 113-116. Dec 2018.