DIABETES NURSE EDUCATOR INTAKE PRIORITY TOOL
(Refer to Guidelines)

What is the main reason you wish to see a DNE?

Is the person:
Experiencing a "Hypo" (Blood glucose level less than 4mmol/l with or without symptoms)?
Note: Hypos are only possible if the person is taking insulin or some diabetes tablets.

Yes →

Is the person alone?
1. **Advise to have one of the following**:
   7 jelly beans, glucose tablets (15 gms),
   3 teaspoons of sugar or honey,
   ½ can of regular soft drink or ½ glass of juice.
2. **Recheck blood glucose after 15 minutes & repeat Step 1 if still less than 4mmol/l or if symptoms persist.**
3. **Follow up with either:** Meal if due, slice of bread, fruit, glass of milk, tub of yoghurt, dried fruit or 6 small dry biscuits & cheese.
4. **Advise to go to emergency** if no improvement after Step 2. The person should not drive. Phone for an ambulance if they are alone.

No ↓

Is the person currently UNWELL with:
1. Normal, low or slightly elevated Blood Glucose Levels.
2. Blood Glucose Levels persistently above 15mmol/l?
3. Type 1 diabetes and urine ketones are moderate to high or blood ketones > 1.0mmol/l.
4. Vomiting for more than 2-4 hours?
5. Drowsiness, confusion, difficulty breathing or abdominal pain?

Yes →

Is the person alone?
1. **Advise client according to ADEA "Guidelines for Sick Day Management"**
   Encourage to seek medical advice if too unwell or not coping.
2, 3, 4 & 5. Advise to be taken to emergency urgently. The client should not drive. Phone for an ambulance if alone.

No ↓

Is the person:
- A child or adult with Type 1 diabetes?
- Experiencing frequent hypoglycaemia?
- Type 2 diabetes, symptomatic & commencing insulin or OHAs?
- Experiencing high blood glucose levels most of the time?
- Experiencing an active wound, ulcer or infection.
- Pregnant.

Yes →

PRIORITY 1
Contact: Within 24 hours:
Appt: 0-7 days (based on initial contact assessment).

No ↓

Is the person:
- Very distressed because of their diabetes?
- Newly diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes?
- Type 2, asymptomatic & commencing insulin or OHAs?
- Over 65, frail, disabled or diagnosed with 2 or more chronic conditions?
- Unable to or having difficulties attending appointments.

Yes →

PRIORITY 2
Contact: Within 1-5 working days.
Appt: 1-4 weeks (based on initial contact assessment).
Enroll in group education if appropriate.

No ↓

Is the person:
- Diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes requiring further education?
- Diagnosed with Pre-diabetes?
- Requiring an annual Diabetes Review?
- Referred as part of a GP Management Plan?

Yes →

PRIORITY 3
Contact: Within 7 working days.
Appt: 4-8 weeks or following group education (based on initial contact assessment).

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Offer referral to:
- **Dietetics** if the person has not been reviewed by a dietitian in the last 12 months.
- **Podiatry** if the person is newly diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes or due for their annual foot assessment.
- **Exercise physiologist** if indicated.
- **Counselling** if the person is exhibiting signs of depression or appears to be significantly distressed.
- **Smoking cessation** programme (BCHC) if the person wishes to stop smoking.
- **EiCDM: HIP** (BCHC) **/ or HARP** (BHS) if indicated - See criteria.

MNeale: BCHC in consultation with Diabetes Steering Committee 31/8/08: **Refer Guidelines**