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How to Manage Prediabetes

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Patients with prediabetes have a 5-10% annual risk and a 70% lifetime risk of developing diabetes. Early intervention is known to reduce the risk of complications. Therefore, it is important to identify prediabetes early in its course and monitor HbA1C yearly.¹⁻²

Key components of management of prediabetes include:

One in three adults has prediabetes.



Lifestyle Modifications

- Refer patients to a Diabetes Prevention Program or registered dietitian.³ As of January 2022, Ohio Medicaid provides coverage for National Diabetes Prevention Programs, both online and in-person.⁴ Ohio Medicaid plans also cover Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support in individual and group settings.⁴
- Help patients achieve and maintain a 5-10% weight loss.³
- Decrease sedentary behavior and increase physical activity, ideally to 150 minutes per week or more.3
- Recommend a dietary approach for healthier eating (i.e., Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension [DASH] Diet).³
- Use evidence-based tools to help patients stop tobacco use, reduce/eliminate alcohol, improve sleep, and manage stress.

Clinical Interventions

- Assess and manage related conditions, such as obesity, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and sleep apnea to reduce cardiovascular risk.
- Consider adding metformin with lifestyle modification, especially if BMI ≥ 35, age < 60 years old, or a history of gestational diabetes.³
- For those with severe obesity or moderate obesity with other significant medical comorbid conditions, discuss referral to an obesity medicine specialist or bariatric surgery program.

For more information, access Cardi-OH's expanded resources on prediabetes screening and treatment and obesity and prediabetes.

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