

## Diabetes Can Impact Patient Safety and Yours Too!

Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin. Insulin is a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life. The cause of diabetes continues to be a mystery, although both genetics and environmental factors such as obesity and lack of exercise appear to play roles.

There are 20.8 million children and adults in the United States, or 7% of the population, who have diabetes. While an estimated 14.6 million have been diagnosed with diabetes, unfortunately, 6.2 million people (or nearly one-third) are unaware that they have the disease.

The incidence of diabetes has grown in New York City and affects our patients and your families. Take the time to read the articles under the Patient Safety Section on the Health & Home Care web site ([www.homecarenyc.org](http://www.homecarenyc.org)). Share them with your family, friends, co-workers and staff and let's all work together to beat this disease and prevent many of its devastating complications.

For hard copies of these articles, respond to OOOPs and just ask. Need more information for the care of our patients or your family and friends? Write to OOOPS and we'll help too.

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