



*Maureen Wallymahmed,
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Do you ever wonder if other people are doing the same as you and that you might just be re-inventing the wheel?

Now is your chance to find out by using the Noticeboard section in the *Journal of Diabetes Nursing*. As a member of the journal's editorial board, I know that this feature creates a welcome opportunity for nurses

involved in diabetes care to pose a quick question or share a fleeting thought with other healthcare professionals without having to write a whole article or phone round an array of colleagues.

The idea of Noticeboard is much the same as an internet message board where people can place requests, thoughts, ideas – in fact anything they want to share – as a brief message on this page. We at the journal will then encourage other readers to comment in the next issue, thereby enhancing ongoing debate and discussion but with minimum effort on the part of participants.

Ability to administer insulin

Q As a diabetes nurse working within an acute Trust, insulin administration when individuals with type 1 diabetes or with other types of diabetes requiring insulin treatment lack the cognitive or physical ability to self-administer their insulin, and who do not have a relative to administer the insulin for them, is an issue which we are coming up against frequently. Community nurses are reluctant to take on this role other than in the short-term. We are currently in discussions with district nursing leads to develop a training package for carers to give them the skills to administer insulin. We are also developing training for residential care home staff on diabetes, but this does not currently cover insulin administration.

Do any DSNs have a policy that allows carers to administer insulin, and what training was developed to enable the relevant skills to be taught and assessed? The issue of ongoing support for these staff and delivering training to district nurses on diabetes is also an area we are interested in. It would be helpful for us to know how other regions manage this.

*Maggie McDonald,
Diabetes Clinical Nurse Specialist*

Any answers?

Please send any responses or further questions to:

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