



A Clear Path
TO DIABETES CONTROL

D-PATH STUDY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



BEYOND THE MANDATE: THE REAL VALUE OF D-PATH

Many pharmacists participating in D-PATH work in environments where corporate priorities, workflow pressures, and staffing constraints can make new initiatives feel like **“one more thing”**. If participation sometimes feels mandated or externally driven, that feeling is understandable.

However, D-PATH is **fundamentally different from many corporate programs**. This study was designed **by pharmacists, for pharmacists**, to demonstrate the real clinical impact community pharmacists can have in diabetes care when practicing to full scope. Participating in D-PATH gives pharmacists the opportunity to do the work that many of us entered the profession to do; **practice clinical pharmacy**, improve patient outcomes, and build meaningful relationships with patients managing chronic disease.

Beyond the immediate patient benefit, participation also contributes to something larger. The evidence generated through D-PATH helps demonstrate to regulators, policymakers, and health systems that community pharmacists are essential members of the health care team. This type of evidence is what ultimately **supports expanded scope, sustainable clinical services, and recognition of pharmacists as clinicians**.

Importantly, engaging in meaningful patient care can also improve **professional wellbeing**. When pharmacists are able to use their clinical training, make therapeutic decisions, and see patients improve, it can reconnect us with the purpose that drew many of us to healthcare in the first place. It's important to shift the mindset from “I have to do this” to **“I get to do this for my patients”**.



RECRUITMENT TIPS

*"Integrating D-PATH study recruitment into our everyday diabetes care has made it both natural and effective. **Our whole pharmacy team is engaged in identifying eligible patients**, and we've also involved pharmacy students to help with screening and learning through the process.*

*When I speak with patients, I **focus on the opportunity**: they receive enhanced support for their diabetes, they help advance the expanding role of pharmacists in patient care, and they contribute to a valuable learning experience for future pharmacists.*

When patients see that their participation can improve their own health while helping move pharmacy practice forward, many are excited to be part of it."

Craig MacAlpine, Walmart #3657 Leduc, Alberta

STRATEGY - METFORMIN MONOTHERAPY

This month, consider focusing on patients taking **metformin monotherapy** whose A1C remains above 7%, as they may benefit from treatment optimization and are often ideal candidates for D-PATH. When reviewing profiles, dispensing refills, or discussing lab results, take a moment to ask if they would be interested in participating in the study.

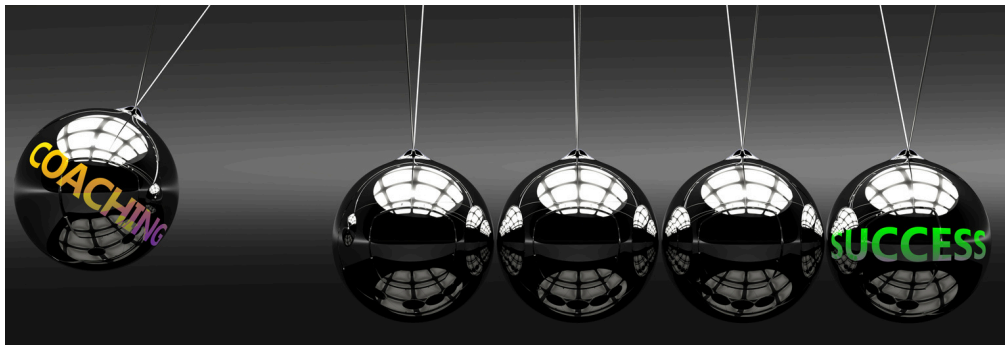
A simple **goal for March is to ask one eligible patient per day**. Small, consistent conversations can make a meaningful difference in identifying participants and improving diabetes care in the community.

HELPFUL TIPS

1. **Engage the whole pharmacy team.** Pharmacy assistants and technicians can help identify potential patients when processing prescriptions, reviewing profiles, or preparing refills. A quick note to the pharmacist can help flag eligible patients.
2. **Watch for metformin monotherapy.** Patients taking only metformin with an A1C above 7% may be strong candidates for participation.
3. **Keep materials ready.** Have questionnaires, consent forms, and study information sheets printed and easily accessible so enrollment can happen quickly when an eligible patient is identified.
4. **Do a quick team "dry run".** Walk through the recruitment and enrollment process with a staff member so everyone understands the workflow and feels comfortable supporting the process.
5. **Make it a daily habit.** Aim to ask one eligible patient per day if they would be interested in learning more about the study. Small daily efforts can quickly add up.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FEBRUARY ENROLL ONE CHALLENGE WINNER!

We are pleased to recognize Peace River Value Drug Mart as the winning pharmacy for the February Enroll One Challenge. Two pharmacies successfully enrolled their first patient in February, and Peace River Value Drug Mart was selected as the winner in the draw.



D-PATH COACHING

In addition to offering virtual or in-person sessions to walk through the pathway together, we are also happy to support you when enrolling your first patient. A member of the D-PATH team can join by phone or video (and occasionally in person) while you complete the enrollment with your patient. This provides an opportunity to ask questions in real time and helps make the process straightforward and comfortable for everyone involved.

Email: dpathstudy@gmail.com

Phone: 825-735-9744

SITE VISITS

We will be conducting in-person site visits starting mid-March to chat with all pharmacists enrolled in D-PATH. We will be contacting you by phone ahead of time to set up a brief appointment time to meet.

