

Learn more about diabetes care and quality scores

- [Why is this important?](#)
- [About this quality information](#)
- [A-1-C lab test for blood sugar \(86% — above the national average of 75%\)](#)
- [Dilated eye exam \(only 60% — above the national average of 34%, which is also low\)](#)
- [Cholesterol test \(79% — above the national average of 72%\)](#)
- [Test for kidney disease \(78% — above the national average of 64%\)](#)
- [Opportunities for improvement](#)
- [Patients and health professionals share the responsibility for good diabetes care](#)

Why is this important?

About 1 out of 15 adults in Oregon has been diagnosed with diabetes. Having diabetes can lead to serious health problems that include heart disease and stroke, kidney problems, nerve damage, blindness, and amputations.

To help prevent these problems, national standards for quality care say that *everyone* with diabetes needs regular medical care that includes certain types of tests and exams – including the 4 types of diabetes care featured on this website.

- Getting this recommended care helps patients and their doctors know how well a patient's diabetes is being controlled.
- This care also helps find new health problems at an early stage when the problems are still small and easier to treat.

About this quality information

The quality information on this website comes from a database on patient care compiled by *Partner for Quality Care* in collaboration with eight of Oregon's largest health plans.

- This database has information about care provided to more than 2.5 million patients by about 300 primary care doctors' offices throughout Oregon.

- For each type of diabetes care, quality scores are shown for the doctors' offices that have 25 or more patients for whom the care is appropriate.

The comparisons to national averages shown below are based on the overall average of percentages for individual doctors' offices.

A-1-C lab test for blood sugar (86% — above the national average of 75%)

- In Oregon doctors' offices, an average of 86% of adult patients with diabetes, ages 18 through 75, got at least one A-1-C test during a recent one-year period. This is above the **national average** of 75%.
- Percentages for doctors' offices ranged from a low of 52% to a high of 100%.

Dilated eye exam (only 60% — above the national average of 34%, which is also low)

- In Oregon doctors' offices, an average of 60% of adult patients with diabetes, ages 18 through 75, got at least one dilated eye exam during a recent one-year period. This is above the **national average** of 34%. These percentages for Oregon and for the nation are both low enough to cause concern for the health of people with diabetes.
- Percentages for doctors' offices ranged from a low of 24% to a high of 94%.

Cholesterol test (79% — above the national average of 72%)

- In Oregon doctors' offices, an average of 79% of adult patients with diabetes, ages 18 through 75, got their cholesterol checked at least once during a recent one-year period. This is above the **national average** of 72%.
- Percentages for doctors' offices ranged from a low of 33% to a high of 100%.

Test for kidney disease (78%--above the national average of 64%)

- In Oregon doctors' offices, an average of 78% of adult patients with diabetes, ages 18 through 75, got their cholesterol checked at least once during a recent one-year period. This is above the **national average** of 64%.
- Percentages for doctors' offices ranged from a low of 40% to a high of 100%.

Opportunities for improvement

Although Oregon does better than the national average for all 4 types of diabetes care, there is room for improvement, especially for the dilated eye exam.

For each type of diabetes care, there are some doctors' offices with **surprisingly low percentages**. There are also some offices with **high percentages**.

- The low percentages show that there are big opportunities for improvement at some doctors' offices.

- The high percentages show that it's possible for a doctor's office to make sure that the great majority of their patients with diabetes get the recommended care.

Patients and health professionals share the responsibility for good diabetes care

- To stay healthy, patients need to be actively involved in managing their diabetes and they need to go in for regular visits with their doctor or other health professional.
- Doctors and other health professionals need to make sure their patients with diabetes are getting all of the tests and exams recommended for them – including the 4 types of care shown on this web page.