

Did You Know...?

About 48% of Michigan adults who have diabetes also have a disability. **



Diabetes and Disabilities

For Health
Care Professionals

People with disabilities experience significant health disparities and barriers in health care compared with people without disabilities, such as...

- Being treated with respect.
- Encountering facilities, products, and services that are usable by all people
- Including identification of disability status and support needs prior to the appointment
- Needing help to find resources and education about complications that meet their needs

What can you do to help?

- ✓ Set the tone and expectations for interactions for yourself and all staff
- ✓ When talking with someone who has a disability, speak directly to that person rather than through a companion who may be with them
- ✓ Accessibility for people with mobility issues or people with low vision
- ✓ Visual aids for people who are hard of hearing
- ✓ Wheel chair weighing scale for people who cannot stand on scales
- ✓ Anticipate sign language interpreters
- ✓ Provide additional time or space to get settled in exam room
- ✓ Involve other specialists in the treatment plan
- ✓ Integrate psychological care into plan
- ✓ Forecast Magazine Resource Guide annual info on products and aids
- ✓ Help to find a local support group
- ✓ Refer to self-management programs such as DSME or Stanford Self-Management (PATH in Michigan) www.mihealthyprograms.org
- ✓ Contact local agencies such as the Lion's Club for assistance with glasses or hearing aids.

References :

MDCH Diabetes: michigan.gov/diabetes

American Association of Diabetes: <http://www.diabetes.org/>

National Counsel on Disability: <http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2009/Sep302009>

2010 Michigan BRFS: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/2010_MiBRFS_Annual_Report_FINAL_365662_7.pdf

**Under ADA, an individual with a disability is a person who: (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; OR (2) has a record of such an impairment; OR (3) is regarded as having such an impairment.

