

Use of the Patient Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (PACIC) With Diabetic Patients

Relationship to patient characteristics, receipt of care, and self-management

RUSSELL E. GLASGOW, PHD
HOLLY WHITESIDES, BS

CANDACE C. NELSON, MS
DIANE K. KING, MS, OTR

OBJECTIVE— There is a dearth of information on the extent to which diabetic patients receive care congruent with the chronic care model (CCM) and evidence-based behavioral counseling. This study evaluates a new instrument to fill this gap.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS— A heterogeneous sample of 363 type 2 diabetic patients completed the original Patient Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (PACIC), along with additional items that allowed it to be scored according to the “5As” (ask, advise, agree, assist, and arrange) model of behavioral counseling. We evaluated relationships between survey scores and patient characteristics, quality of diabetes care, and self-management.

RESULTS— Findings replicated those of the initial PACIC validation study but with a much larger sample of diabetic patients and more Latinos. Areas of CCM activities reported least often were goal setting/intervention tailoring and follow-up/coordination. The 5As scoring revealed that patients were least likely to receive assistance with problem solving and arrangement of follow-up support. Few demographic or medical characteristics were related to PACIC or 5As scores, but survey scores were significantly related to quality of diabetes care received and level of physical activity.

CONCLUSIONS— The PACIC and the new 5As scoring method appear useful for diabetic patients. Its use is encouraged in future research and quality improvement studies.

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The chronic care model (CCM) (1,2) is receiving widespread acceptance as a framework for developing and implementing evidence-based activities to improve care for chronic illnesses (3,4). The CCM appears applicable for a variety of chronic illnesses (5), including diabetes (6,7), and potentially for preventive services (8). However, there are few instruments to assess the level of CCM-congruent activities that patients receive. To inform quality improvement programs, compare different health care settings, and evaluate intervention studies, it is necessary to have practical assessment tools to evaluate the delivery of CCM activities (9).

The primary assessment procedure

that has been used to date is the Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (10). This scale is completed by health care team members and appears particularly useful for helping teams identify gaps and generate innovations. It is less practical for widespread application, however, and subject to clinician overreporting, as are many clinician report instruments. Since unobtrusive observation is not feasible for large-scale application, asking patients to report the CCM-related activities that they have received seems like a valuable method of providing CCM implementation data.

Recently, Glasgow et al. (11) reported preliminary data on the Patient Assess-

ment of Chronic Illness Care (PACIC), a 20-item survey of the extent to which patients report having received CCM-based services that they could reasonably be expected to observe. That report suggests that the PACIC has reasonable psychometric characteristics and is appropriate for a variety of chronic conditions. This original study was conducted at an integrated health maintenance organization and included patients with a variety of different illnesses, 41 of whom (16%) had diabetes. This study did not have many diabetic patients, Latino respondents, or any patients from mixed-payer medical offices, however, and the present study addresses these issues.

A similar situation exists concerning the “5As” (ask, advise, agree, assist, and arrange) model of behavior change. This framework is increasingly adopted, is evidence based (12,13), appears appropriate to guide quality improvement efforts, and applies to diabetes self-management (14,15). The 5As is a patient-centered model of behavioral counseling that is congruent with the CCM and has been frequently used to enhance self-management support and linkages to community resources, two key CCM components (5,8,14,15). There are few practical assessment tools to evaluate the extent to which the 5As are delivered and that do not rely on clinician reports. The present study addresses this issue by adding six additional items to the original PACIC instrument, which when combined with existing PACIC items, permits scoring of five-item subscales on delivery of each of the 5As, as well as an overall 5As score.

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the appropriateness of the PACIC, and the revised 5As scoring method, for a larger sample of diabetic patients, for Latino patients, and among patients receiving their primary care from a wide range of providers. Specific questions addressed include the following:

1. How do the results of the PACIC in this more diverse diabetes sample compare to the original PACIC study?

From Kaiser Permanente Colorado, Denver, Colorado.

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Russell E. Glasgow, PhD, Kaiser Permanente Colorado, 335 Road Runner Ln., Penrose, CO 81240. E-mail: russg@ris.net.

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Abbreviations: CCM, chronic care model; PACIC, Patient Assessment of Chronic Illness Care.

A table elsewhere in this issue shows conventional and Système International (SI) units and conversion factors for many substances.

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Staying healthy can be difficult when you have a chronic illness. We would like to learn about the type of help with your condition you get from your health care team. This might include your regular doctor, his or her nurse, or physician's assistant who treats your diabetes. Your answers will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone else.

Think about the health care you've received for your diabetes over the past 6 months. (If it's been more than 6 months since you've seen your doctor or nurse, think about your most recent visit.)

Over the past 6 months, when receiving medical care for my diabetes, I was:

	Almost Never	Generally Not	Sometimes	Most of the Time	Almost Always
1. Asked for my ideas when we made a treatment plan.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
2. Given choices about treatment to think about.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
3. Asked to talk about any problems with my medicines or their effects.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
4. Given a written list of things I should do to improve my health.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
5. Satisfied that my care was well organized.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
6. Shown how what I did to take care of my illness influenced my condition.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
7. Asked to talk about my goals in caring for my illness.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅

Think about the health care you've received for your diabetes over the past 6 months. (If it's been more than 6 months since you've seen your doctor or nurse, think about your most recent visit.)

Over the past 6 months, when receiving medical care for my diabetes, I was:

	Almost Never	Generally Not	Sometimes	Most of the Time	Almost Always
8. Helped to set specific goals to improve my eating or exercise.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
9. Given a copy of my treatment plan.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
10. Encouraged to go to a specific group or class to help me cope with my chronic illness.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
11. Asked questions, either directly or on a survey, about my health habits.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
12. Sure that my doctor or nurse thought about my values and my traditions when they recommended treatments to me.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
13. Helped to make a treatment plan that I could do in my daily life.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
14. Helped to plan ahead so I could take care of my illness even in hard times.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
15. Asked how my chronic illness affects my life.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
16. Contacted after a visit to see how things were going.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅

Figure 1—Health Care Habits Survey.

- Does the new 5As scoring method provide useful data?
- How do PACIC and 5As scores relate to 1) patient characteristics, 2) quality of diabetes-specific care received, and 3) self-management behaviors of healthy eating and physical activity?

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

The Diabetes Priority study was conducted with patients of 52 physicians in 30 primary care practices located throughout Colorado (16). The target population for the present report consisted of 641 type 2 diabetic patients who completed the study, were still receiving primary care from the same provider, and had known addresses at study conclusion.

The PACIC-5As version (Fig. 1) contained 26 items (the original 20 and 6 additional items to produce subscales reflecting each of the 5As of behavioral counseling recommended by the U.S. Preventative Services Taskforce) (12). Respondents answered each item with a response from 1 = almost never to 5 = almost always. There are five PACIC subscales related to different aspects of providing collaborative care congruent with the CCM (1,4): patient activation, delivery system/practice design, goal setting/tailoring, problem solving/contextual, and follow-up/coordination. The original PACIC and its subscales have been found to be internally consistent (α for overall scale = 0.93), to conform to a hypothesized factor structure, to be moderately

reliable over time ($r = 0.58$ over 3 months), and to correlate as predicted with other measures of primary care quality (11).

As shown in the Fig. 1, the survey can also be scored to provide five items on each of the 5As subscales of assess, advise, agree, assist, and arrange (12,13). A modified five-item version of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (17) physical activity questions was used to assess frequency and duration of moderate and vigorous exercise. The 17-item Block Dietary Data Systems "Fat Screener" (18) estimated participants' intake of dietary fat. This screener has been shown to correlate well with the gold standard 100-item Block Food Frequency Questionnaire with respect to dietary intake of total

Think about the health care you've received for your diabetes over the past 6 months. (If it's been more than 6 months since you've seen your doctor or nurse, think about your most recent visit.)

Over the past 6 months, when receiving medical care for my diabetes, I was:

	Almost Never	Generally Not	Sometimes	Most of the Time	Almost Always
17. Encouraged to attend programs in the community that could help me.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
18. Referred to a dietitian, health educator, or counselor.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
19. Told how my visits with other types of doctors, like the eye doctor or surgeon, helped my treatment.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
20. Asked how my visits with other doctors were going.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
21. Asked what I would like to discuss about my illness at that visit.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
22. Asked how my work, family, or social situation related to taking care of my illness.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
23. Helped to make plans for how to get support from my friends, family or community.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
24. Told how important the things I do to take care of my illness (e.g., exercise) were for my health.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
25. Set a goal together with my team for what I could do to manage my condition.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
26. Given a book or monitoring log in which to record the progress I am making.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅

SCORING INSTRUCTIONS

For PACIC Scoring:

PACIC Summary Score =	Average of first 20 items (do not include items 21-26)
Patient Activation =	Average of Items 1-3
Delivery System/Practice Design =	Average of Items 4-6
Goal Setting/Tailoring =	Average of Items 7-11
Problem Solving/Contextual =	Average of Items 12-15
Follow-up/Coordination	Average of Items 16-20

For 5 As Scoring

5 As Summary Score =	Average of Items 1-4 and 6-16 (exclude Item 5 and average the rest)
Assess =	Average of Items 1, 11, 15, 20, 21
Advise =	Average of Items 4, 6, 9, 19, 24
Agree =	Average of Items 2, 3, 7, 8, 25
Assist =	Average of Items 10, 12, 13, 14, 26
Arrange =	Average of Items 16, 17, 18, 22, 23

Figure 1—Continued

fat, saturated fat, and percent of calories from fat ($\rho = 0.60$, $P < 0.0001$).

Quality of diabetes care was assessed at the final contact for the parent study by two composite scales consisting of items from the National Committee for Quality Assurance/American Diabetes Association Provider Recognition Program (19). These included a laboratory assessments composite score calculated from items that asked participants to recall when they had last received each of five recommended assessments from their physician (e.g., cholesterol, blood pressure, foot

exam, dilated eye exam). The Provider Recognition Program assessment also included four items that involved receipt of self-management counseling for patients on diabetes-related lifestyle aspects of care (e.g., setting a self-management goal, nutrition education or therapy, self-monitoring of blood glucose). These items were summarized to provide a self-management/behavior change composite score.

Demographics collected earlier included sex, education, race/ethnicity, employment status, and yearly income.

Medical characteristics collected at conclusion of the parent study included number of chronic conditions, HbA_{1c} (A1C), and total and HDL cholesterol (Table 1).

Survey procedures

Between 12 and 24 months elapsed between participants' last study visit and the survey. Packets included a summary of earlier study outcomes, the surveys, a cover letter, and a postage-paid "opt-out" postcard to return if the recipient did not want to complete the surveys. Participants completed informed consent as part

Table 1—Patient characteristics

Patient characteristics	Responded to survey (n = 363)	Did not respond to survey (n = 268)	Significance of difference (P value)
Sociodemographic characteristics			
Age (years)	64.1 ± 11.9	62.3 ± 12.9	0.065
Women	47.2	55.4	0.042
Education			0.222
Less than high school	10.3	14.7	
Completed high school	25.9	27.2	
Some college	31.8	32.1	
College graduate/grad school	32.0	26.0	
Latino	10.3	13.6	0.208
Annual household income <\$30,000	41.8	40.1	0.669
Medical characteristics			
Two or more chronic conditions (in addition to type 2 diabetes)	61.7	61.9	0.953
A1C	7.2 ± 1.1	7.3 ± 1.3	0.832
Total cholesterol	188.9 ± 38.4	193.8 ± 38.9	0.130
Cholesterol ratio (total to HDL)	4.3 ± 1.2	4.3 ± 1.1	0.925

Data are means ± SD or percent.

of the parent study, and all procedures were approved by relevant institutional review boards.

Participant responses were tracked via a Microsoft Access database. Queries generated a list of nonrespondents who did not return the survey or the opt-out postcard (13.9%). Follow-up calls were made to 364 (56.9%) participants who received the surveys but did not return them within 2 weeks. The calls were scripted to remind participants to mail back the survey and offered the option to complete the survey over the phone. Three call attempts were made.

Of 364 participants, 46% (n = 167) were reached directly and 42% (n = 153) received messages. Eleven percent (n = 41) were not reachable via telephone, and 1% (n = 4) were deceased. Of 167 participants that were reached directly, 44% (n = 73) returned their surveys, 16% (n = 26) refused, and 41% (n = 68) did not respond. In summary, a total of 363 patients (63% of those contacted and/or presumed to have received a survey) completed a survey.

RESULTS

Respondent characteristics

Of nine patient characteristics analyzed, the only significant difference between respondents and nonrespondents was on sex (47% of respondents were women compared with 55% of nonrespondents, $P = 0.042$). There were no significant differences between respondents and nonre-

spondents on age, education, ethnicity, or income. Additionally, respondents did not differ from nonrespondents in medical characteristics, including number of comorbidities, A1C, and cholesterol levels (Table 1). Respondents appeared representative of type 2 diabetic patients: they were older (average age 64 years), and >60% had two or more chronic illnesses in addition to diabetes. Just over 10% were Latino, and 42% had an annual family income of <\$30,000.

PACIC scale

The average overall score on the original PACIC items was 3.2 of a possible 5, just above the center point of the scale. Inspection of distributional characteristics revealed that there was adequate variability (Table 2) on the overall scale and all of the subscales (only 3–9% had subscale scores <1.5 [4% on the summary score] and 7–22% had subscale scores >4.5 [9% in the summary scale]). Within-group repeated-measures ANOVA results revealed significant differences among scale means. Bonferoni post hoc follow-up tests revealed that patient activation ($M = 3.6$) and delivery system/practice design ($M = 3.5$) did not differ significantly from one another but were rated as occurring significantly more often than the other subscales (Table 2). The problem solving/contextual scale ($M = 3.4$) was intermediate and significantly different from all other subscales, and the goal setting/tailoring and follow-up coordination scales were rated as occurring signifi-

cantly less often than the other activities. The intraclass correlation of patient PACIC scores within physician was 0.023. To ensure that this moderate nesting did not inflate our results, we also conducted ANOVAs including physician as a random factor. All results were very similar, with resulting P values changing by ≤ 0.01 . Between groups, repeated-measures ANOVA results showed that there were no significant differences associated with sex, ethnicity, income, or number of comorbid conditions (Table 2). The internal consistency α for the overall PACIC score was 0.96.

5As scoring

For the 5A scales, within-group repeated-measures results revealed that there were significant differences among the subscales. The mean for the overall 5As summary score was 3.2 of a possible 5, and there was adequate variability and distribution on all of the scales (only 4–16% had subscale scores <1.5 [4% on the summary scale] and only 8–15% had subscale scores >4.5 [7% on the summary scale]). Bonferoni post hoc tests showed that the arrange mean ($M = 2.7$) was significantly lower than all other 5As scale means (Table 3). The assist scale ($M = 3.1$) produced the next lowest mean score and was significantly different from all other scales. The intraclass correlation of the 5A scores within physician was 0.029. Therefore, we conducted ANOVAs including physician as a random factor. Again, conclusions were unchanged, and

Table 2—Results for overall PACIC scale and subscales by patient characteristics (n = 336)

Patient group	Patient activation	Delivery system/ practice design	Goal setting/ tailoring	Follow-up/ coordination	Problem solving/ contextual	Significance of differences (P value)	All items
All respondents	3.6 ± 1.1 ^{a1}	3.5 ± 0.9 ^{a2}	3.0 ± 1.0 ^{b1}	2.9 ± 1.0 ^{b2}	3.4 ± 1.1 ^c	<0.001	3.2 ± 0.9
Subgroup							
Sex						0.233	
Men	3.5 ± 1.1	3.5 ± 0.9	3.0 ± 1.0	2.9 ± 1.0	3.4 ± 1.1		3.2 ± 0.9
Women	3.6 ± 1.1	3.5 ± 1.0	3.1 ± 1.1	3.0 ± 1.1	3.4 ± 1.2		3.3 ± 1.0
Ethnicity						0.319	
Latino	3.6 ± 1.1	3.8 ± 0.8	3.3 ± 1.1	3.2 ± 1.0	3.4 ± 1.2		3.4 ± 0.9
Non-Latino	3.5 ± 1.1	3.5 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 1.0	2.9 ± 1.0	3.4 ± 1.1		3.2 ± 0.9
Annual income						0.883	
<\$30,000/year	3.5 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 0.9	3.1 ± 1.0	2.9 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 1.1		3.3 ± 0.9
≥\$30,000/year	3.6 ± 1.1	3.5 ± 0.9	3.0 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 1.0	3.4 ± 1.1		3.2 ± 0.9
Chronic conditions (in addition to type 2 diabetes)						0.337	
<2	3.7 ± 1.1	3.6 ± 0.9	3.1 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 1.0		3.3 ± 0.9
≥2	3.5 ± 1.1	3.5 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 1.0	2.9 ± 1.0	3.3 ± 1.2		3.2 ± 1.0

^{a1, a2}Significantly different from goal setting/tailoring ($P < 0.001$), follow-up/coordination ($P < 0.001$), and problem solving/contextual (^{a1} $P = 0.015$, ^{a2} $P = 0.005$). ^{b1, b2}Significantly different from patient activation ($P < 0.001$), delivery system/practice design ($P < 0.001$), and problem solving/contextual (^{b1} $P = 0.004$, ^{b2} $P < 0.001$). ^cSignificantly different from patient activation ($P = 0.015$), delivery system/practice design ($P = 0.005$), goal setting/tailoring ($P = 0.004$), and follow-up/coordination ($P < 0.001$).

the resulting P values were almost identical to those of the analysis without physician. Between groups, repeated-measures ANOVAs revealed no significant effects due to sex, ethnicity, income, or number of comorbid conditions (Table 3). Internal consistency analyses indicated that the α for the 5As summary score was 0.97.

Relationship to diabetes care and self-management

The PACIC and the 5As summary scores were both significantly related to quality of diabetes care received, using both the composite laboratory assessment ($r = 0.23$ for both, $P < 0.001$) and the composite behavior change/self-management counseling scales ($r = 0.25$ for CCM scor-

ing and 0.24 for 5As scoring, both $P < 0.001$).

Preliminary analyses revealed that female sex was significantly correlated with both physical activity ($\rho = -0.19$, $P = 0.001$) and fat consumption ($\rho = -0.21$, $P < 0.001$). Annual income <\$30,000 per year was significantly correlated with fat consumption ($\rho = 0.15$, $P = 0.007$).

Table 3—Results for 5As scoring for overall scale and subscales by patient characteristics (n = 336)

Patient group	Assess	Agree	Advise	Assist	Arrange	Significance (P value)	All items
All respondents	3.3 ± 1.0	3.4 ± 1.0	3.3 ± 1.0	3.1 ± 1.0*	2.7 ± 1.0†	<0.001	3.2 ± 1.0
Subgroup							
Sex						0.172	
Men	3.3 ± 1.0	3.4 ± 1.0	3.3 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 1.0	2.6 ± 1.0		3.1 ± 0.9
Women	3.3 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 1.0	3.3 ± 1.0	3.1 ± 1.1	2.8 ± 1.1		3.2 ± 1.0
Ethnicity						0.197	
Latino	3.5 ± 1.0	3.6 ± 1.0	3.6 ± 0.8	3.2 ± 1.1	3.0 ± 1.0		3.4 ± 0.9
Non-Latino	3.3 ± 1.0	3.4 ± 1.0	3.3 ± 1.0	3.1 ± 1.0	2.7 ± 1.0		3.1 ± 0.9
Annual income						0.945	
<\$30,000/year	3.3 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 1.0	3.3 ± 1.0	3.2 ± 1.0	2.8 ± 1.0		3.2 ± 0.9
≥\$30,000/year	3.4 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 1.0	3.3 ± 0.9	3.1 ± 1.0	2.7 ± 1.0		3.2 ± 0.9
Chronic conditions (in addition to type 2 diabetes)						0.296	
<2	3.4 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 1.0	3.4 ± 0.9	3.2 ± 1.0	2.7 ± 1.0		3.3 ± 0.9
≥2	3.3 ± 1.0	3.4 ± 1.0	3.3 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 1.0	2.7 ± 1.1		3.1 ± 1.0

*Mean significantly different from assess ($P = 0.001$), agree ($P < 0.001$), advise ($P < 0.001$), and arrange ($P < 0.001$). †Mean significantly different from assess ($P < 0.001$), agree ($P < 0.001$), advise ($P < 0.001$), and assist ($P < 0.001$).

To adjust for these associations, correlations were run both with and without sex and income partialled out. Both the PACIC and the 5As summary scales were significantly correlated with physical activity, in both unadjusted and adjusted analyses ($r = 0.17$ for both PACIC and 5As summary scores, $P < 0.005$), but were not significantly correlated with fat consumption.

CONCLUSIONS— This study provides a replication of results on a promising new instrument and reports on a new way of scoring the PACIC that should be of interest to the diabetes management research and clinical communities. There is a clear need for practical measures to assess implementation of both the CCM and the 5As approach to diabetes self-management; the PACIC appears to fill this need. The Institute of Medicine has concluded that patient-centered collaborative care is essential to improving chronic illness care (4), and valid measures of such care are sorely needed. Both the original PACIC and the new 5As version appear appropriate for type 2 diabetes.

Within-scale analyses produced important results concerning how often different CCM and 5As activities are conducted. Consistent with the original PACIC validation study, goal setting and follow-up support activities were conducted significantly less often than other actions, and this highlights important areas for future research. Collaborative goal setting is a core aspect of the CCM, and follow-up contact is critical across all types of diabetes management. The 5As analysis indicated that problem-solving assistance and especially arranging follow-up support were conducted less often than the other As. These results are consistent with research using different survey instruments (20) and indicate an important area for quality improvement and diabetes self-management research. Identifying practical and cost-effective interventions for problem-solving/action planning and follow-up support are important challenges (21), since these last two As are key aspects of effective self-management support (14,22,23).

Both scoring methods were generally unrelated to patient characteristics but significantly and moderately related to both measures of quality of diabetes care received and level of physical activity. These findings provide conceptual support for the PACIC, as it showed relationships with constructs that it was

hypothesized to be related to and was not related to factors with which it should not be related (24).

Our data suggest conceptual and interpretive cautions and limitations to both scoring methods. Although the overall summary scores appear useful, the subscales are so highly intercorrelated that it may not make sense to interpret them separately. The overall correlation between the PACIC and 5As summary scores is not surprising, since 19 of the same items are used in both composites and since patient-centered self-management support is central to the CCM.

Study limitations include the modest survey return rate, that this was a cross-sectional analysis, and the length of time between assessment of self-management and quality of care assessments and the PACIC survey. These concerns are offset somewhat by the apparent representativeness of participants and the fact that any changes in patient characteristics since their assessment should have reduced the magnitude of relationships found. Strengths include the replication and extension of the initial PACIC validation study with diabetic patients, inclusion of a large and heterogeneous sample of type 2 diabetic patients from many clinical settings, analyses involving Latino patients, and the new 5As items and scoring methods. Future research is indicated to evaluate the PACIC against objective measures of clinician behaviors (e.g., video or audiotapes), determine the sensitivity of the PACIC to intervention effects, evaluate the scale with Spanish speaking and racial minorities, and determine whether the PACIC can be shortened without loss of predictive power.

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