Assessing Gaps in Staff Education about Subcutaneous Injection Administration

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Disclosures

I have no financial disclosures.

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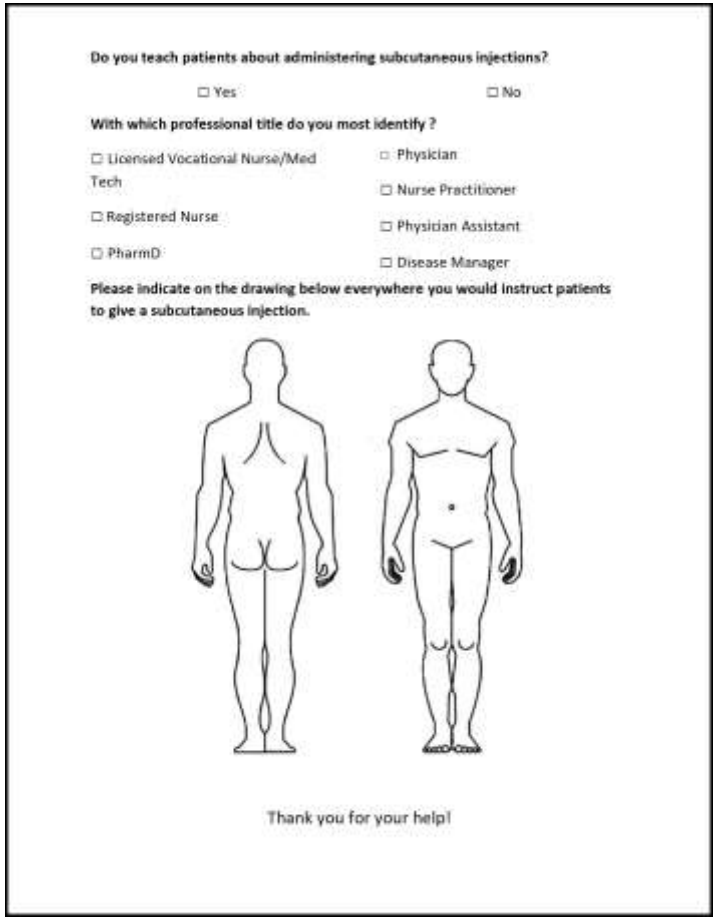
Background

- Lipohypertrophy is a collection of adipose tissue that forms following repetitive subcutaneous insulin injections at the same skin site, which can inhibit the absorption of insulin.
- At the Diabetes Center of Excellence (DCOE), one of the clinical diabetes educators noted multiple patients with diabetes having evidence of abdominal lipohypertrophy.
- The patients shared that healthcare professionals told them that the abdomen was the only appropriate site for subcutaneous insulin administration and were unaware of alternative administration sites.

Methods



Do you teach patients about administering subcutaneous injections?

☐ Yes ☐ No

With which professional title do you most identify ?

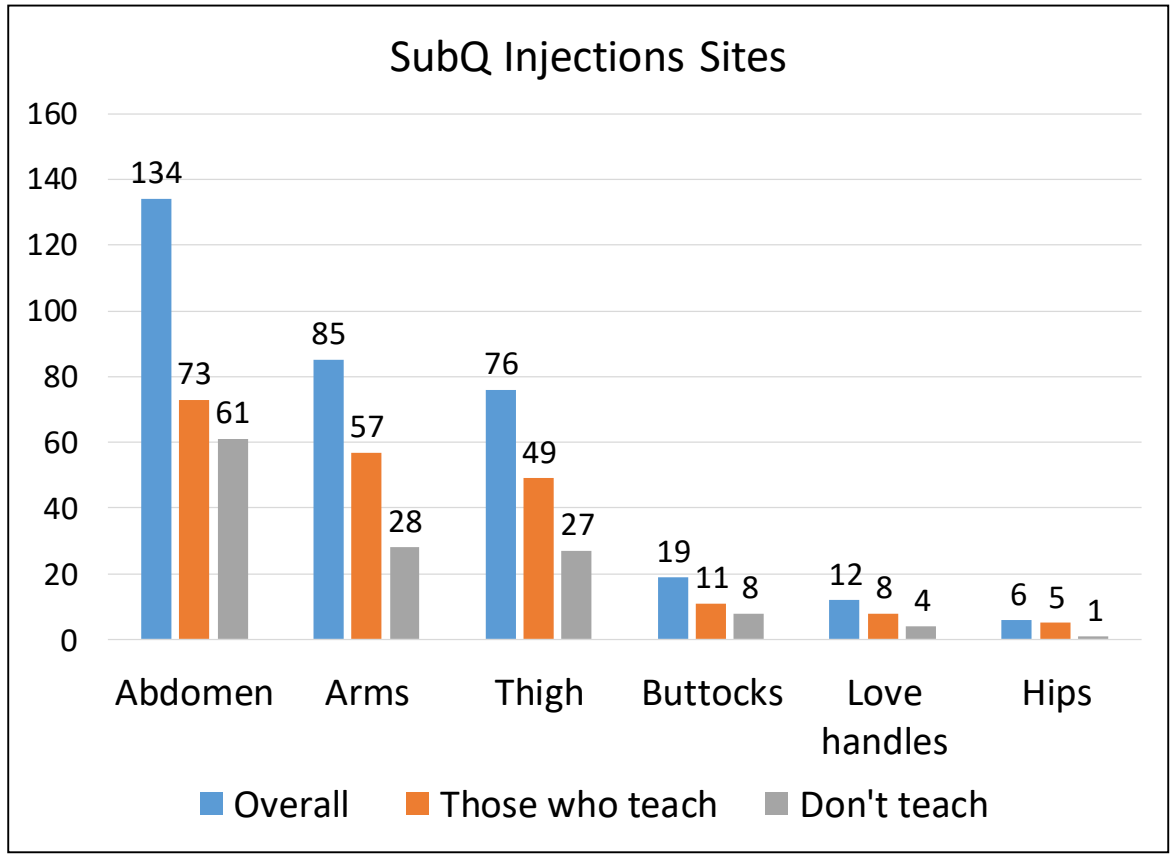
☐ Licensed Vocational Nurse/Med Tech
☐ Registered Nurse
☐ PharmD
☐ Physician
☐ Nurse Practitioner
☐ Physician Assistant
☐ Disease Manager

Please indicate on the drawing below everywhere you would instruct patients to give a subcutaneous injection.

Thank you for your help!

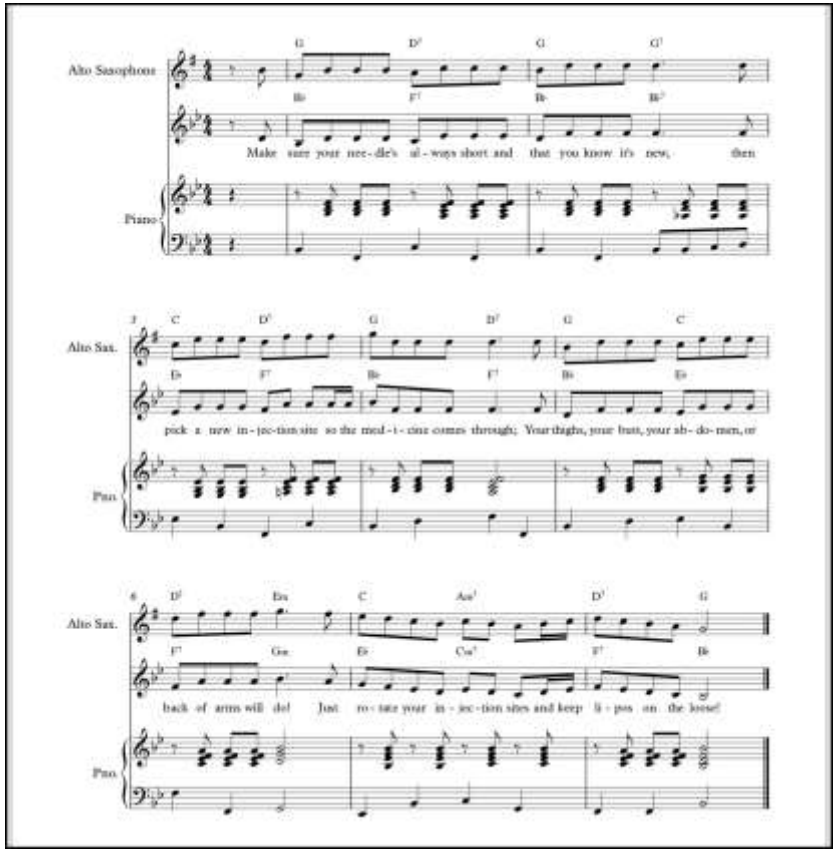
- The goal of this process improvement project was to identify the scope and source of gaps in subcutaneous injection education among healthcare professionals.
- A survey was distributed to the WHASC Internal Medicine and Family Medicine Clinic, Pharmacy and DCOE along with 2 inpatient medical units at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) and SAUSHEC Internal Medicine Residency.
- 148 surveys were completed.

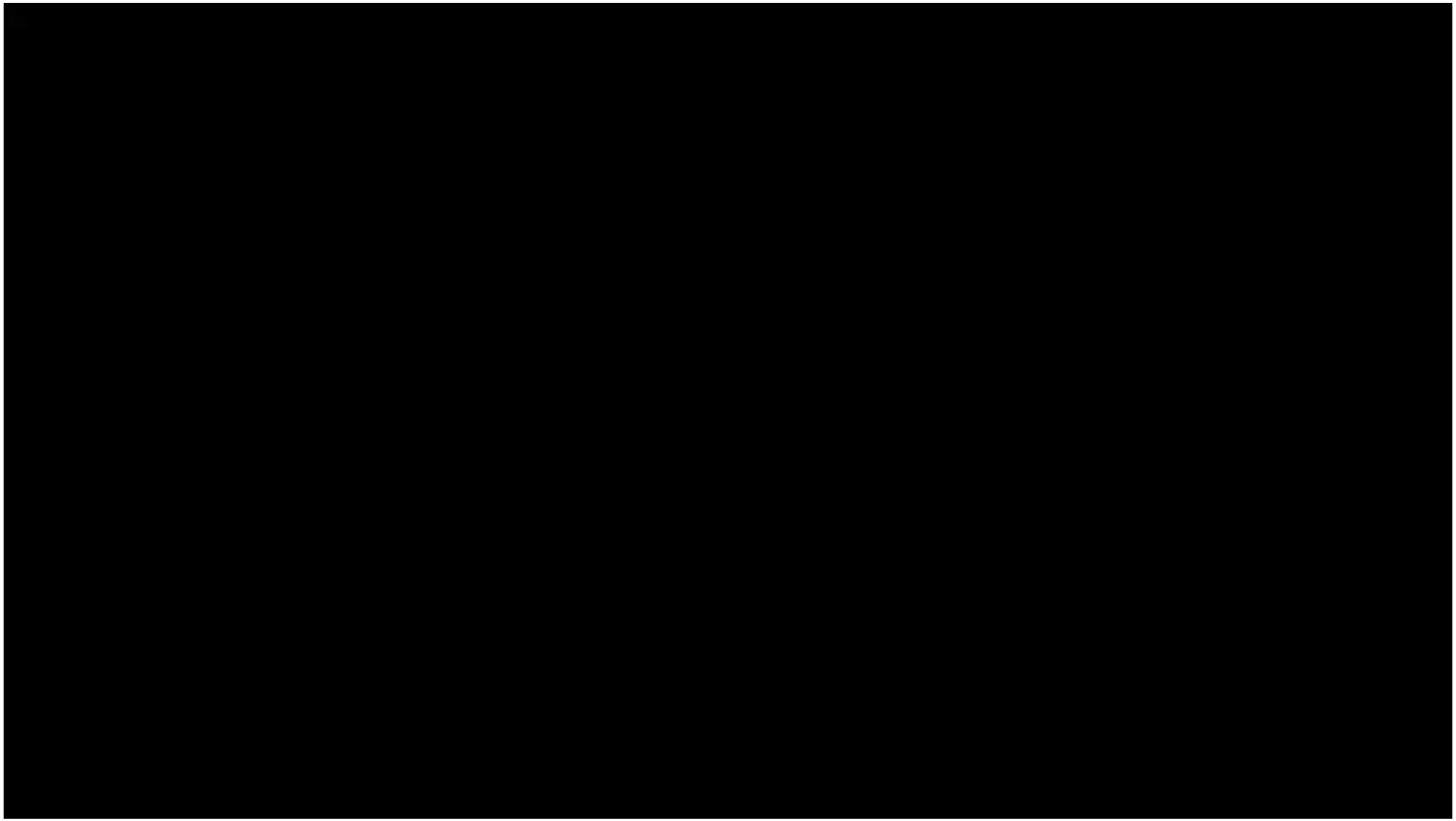
Results


SubQ Injections Sites
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
134
73
61
85
57
28
76
49
27
19
11
8
12
8
4
6
5
1
Abdomen
Arms
Thigh
Buttocks
Love handles
Hips
Overall
Those who teach
Don't teach

Intervention

- The music arranger for the USAF Band of the West volunteered to compose a jingle.
- Healthcare professionals from the DCOE brainstormed lyrics for the jingle.
- Six-year-old Beatrix Mallinger provided the vocal talent.
- WHASC public affairs assisted by creating the visual animation to accompany the music.





Questions