# NHS-RGB-for wordCSH Surrey

**Referring to the Community Diabetes Specialist Nurses: Guidance for primary care.**

The Community DSNs see patients who are referred via primary care (GPs/Practice Nurses) and from District Nurses and Community Matrons, as well as other departments in the community. They also support the Consultant led diabetes clinics, which are held at St Peters Hospital and patients who are referred via the Inpatient DSNs, on discharge from hospital.

The guidelines for a referral to the service from primary care include the following (but are also dependent upon individual cases):

* All referrals should be in writing (for tracking). Details should include the patient’s name, date of birth, NHS number, recent blood results including latest HbA1c and a current medication list. A recent dietary review is also required to have been completed and a referral made for the X-Pert course, if required.
* All annual diabetes reviews should be completed by the GP and Practice Nurse and is not the role of the DSN.
* The referral should clearly state the reason for the referral and what input is needed from the DSN.
* The DSN’s role is to provide additional support and advice for unstable type 1 and type 2 patients, alongside the GP and Practice Nurse.
* Type 2 patients can be referred to the service if they remain unstable on maximum oral therapy *or* if oral anti-diabetic drugs are contraindicated or not tolerated and advice needed.
* Type 1 patients can be referred for additional support with insulin, education and diet.
* The DSNs provide support for patients who are on, or are due to start, injectable therapies. They will support the patient with the titration of the insulin to help improve glycaemic control.
* The DSN will help the GP with deciding what insulin and what doses are needed.
* The STEPH course is a type 1 course that is held at St Peters Hospital and the patient can be referred onto this by the GP or other healthcare practitioner via the email: [joanne.mcbride3@nhs.net](mailto:joanne.mcbride3@nhs.net)
* The Diabetes Dietitians are based at St Peters and can be contacted via: 01932 723417
* The Inpatient DSNs at St Peters Hospital support the Consultant led diabetes clinics at Ashford Hospital and can be contacted via: 01932 722844

# Our contact details:

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