



TREATMENT | HEALTH SERVICES

Project: Raising awareness about undiagnosed diabetes in children in three provinces in Canada: a pilot study

Through donor support, Dr. Rayzel Shulman, faculty member with the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto, is helping prevent a dangerous condition in children with diabetes.

In healthy individuals, blood sugars are controlled by a hormone called insulin, which lowers blood sugar levels. For people with diabetes, they can no longer produce or use enough insulin to control their blood sugars, which can lead to health complications such as nerve damage, sight loss, heart disease, kidney failure, anxiety, amputations, and even death.

If a child develops diabetes and it is not recognized early, this can lead to a serious and life-threatening condition called diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA).

Dr. Shulman and her team are piloting a diabetes awareness campaign to prevent DKA in children in Canada.

They will focus on elementary school educators, caregivers, and health care providers training them to notice the signs of diabetes and DKA.

The study will be piloted in school boards in three provinces. If successful, they will then plan a larger study with other groups of people who interact with children and to other regions in Canada.

By recognizing signs of diabetes early and treating it right away, we can help children avoid a serious and life-threatening condition, making it easier for caregivers to cope with a new diagnosis and to take better care of their children in the future.