

**Table 2 Respondents' self-reported knowledge about the Palestinian guidelines for the care of patients with diabetes mellitus and their practice of continuity of care**

Variable	Total (n =401)		Physicians (n =253)		Nurses (n =148)		P-value
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
<b>Familiar with the guidelines</b>							
Yes	188	46.9	133	53	55	37.7	0.003
No	209	52.1	118	47	91	62.3	
<b>Have copy of the guidelines</b>							
Yes	144	35.9	106	57.6	38	33.9	0.001
No	152	37.9	78	42.4	74	66.1	
<b>Know who developed the guidelines</b>							
Ministry of Health	107	26.7	61	24.3	46	31.7	< 0.001
United Nations Relief and Works Agency	43	10.7	26	10.4	17	11.7	
World Health Organization	74	18.5	42	16.7	32	22.1	
Palestinian Medical Relief Society	16	4.0	8	3.2	8	5.5	
Not local	11	2.7	9	3.6	2	1.4	
Unaware of existence of guidelines	145	36.2	105	41.8	40	27.6	
<b>Implement the guidelines in workplace (total n = 219)</b>							
Widely	61	21.0	43	25.6	18	14.6	0.036
Partially	173	59.5	98	58.3	75	61	
No	57	19.6	27	16.1	30	24.4	
<b>Trained on use of guidelines</b>							
Yes	131	32.7	97	42.7	34	23.4	0.001
No	241	60.1	130	57.3	111	76.6	
<b>Patient can call physician for counselling</b>							
Yes	290	72.3	188	75.5	102	70.3	0.263
No	104	25.9	61	24.5	43	29.7	
<b>Refer patients to endocrinologist</b>							
Yes	222	55.4	145	58.0	77	55.8	0.675
No	166	41.4	105	42.0	61	44.2	
<b>Reason for not referring to endocrinologist</b>							
Not available	146	36.4	22	22.4	124	86.1	< 0.001
No need	96	23.9	76	77.6	20	13.9	
<b>Distance to endocrinologist's clinic</b>							
Same building	52	13.0	43	17.2	9	45.0	0.004
Same city	176	43.9	165	66.0	11	55.0	
Another city	42	10.5	42	16.8	-	-	
<b>Refer patients to ophthalmologist</b>							
Yes	365	91.0	226	89.3	139	96.5	0.012
No	32	8.0	27	10.7	5	3.5	
<b>Advise patients on glucose home monitoring</b>							
Yes	343	85.5	219	86.6	124	83.8	0.445
No	58	14.5	34	13.4	24	16.2	
<b>Know about HbA1c test</b>							
Yes	367	91.5	244	96.4	123	83.1	0.001
No	34	8.5	9	3.6	25	16.9	
<b>Physician's reason for not requesting HbA1c test</b>							
Don't know what it is	-	-	1	1.3	-	-	
High cost	-	-	14	17.9	-	-	
Unnecessary	-	-	48	61.5	-	-	
Unavailable	-	-	14	17.9	-	-	
When needed	-	-	1	1.3	-	-	
<b>Physician's evaluation of patients by HbA1c test</b>							
Yes	-	-	175	69.2	-	-	
No	-	-	78	30.8	-	-	
<b>Presence of ophthalmoscope in clinic</b>							
Yes	-	-	81	32.0	-	-	
No	-	-	172	68.0	-	-	
<b>Physician needs training on ophthalmoscope</b>							
Yes	-	-	195	77.1	-	-	
No	-	-	58	22.9	-	-	

Dashes (-) indicate data not applicable; HbA1c = glycosylated haemoglobin.