

Table 3 Respondents' self-reported frequency of routine laboratory testing and follow-up examinations based on the Palestinian guidelines for the care of patients with diabetes mellitus

Test	Total (n=401)	Physicians (n=253)	Nurses (n=148)	P-value
Blood sugar test^a				
1-3 months	94.1	93.2	95.8	0.11
6-12 months	4.6	6.0	2.1	
Never	1.3	0.8	2.1	
Blood pressure^a				
1-3 months	95.4	95.1	95.8	0.33
6-12 months	3.3	4.0	2.1	
Never	1.3	0.8	2.1	
BMI index^a				
1-3 months	46.1	45.0	47.8	0.03
6-12 months	38.5	36.0	42.8	
Never	15.4	18.9	9.3	
Eye examination^a				
1-3 months	14.2	14.1	14.3	0.98
6-12 months	69.8	70.1	69.3	
Never	16.0	15.7	16.4	
Foot examination^a				
1-3 months	53.6	60.5	42.0	0.01
6-12 months	37.6	33.5	44.8	
Never	8.7	6.0	13.3	
HbA1c testing^b				
Monthly	6.8	6.7	6.8	0.28
3-6 months	79.0	79.1	78.8	
Yearly	8.6	7.1	11.0	
Never	5.8	7.1	3.4	
Lipid profile^c				
≤ 6 months	73.4	73.3	73.5	0.78
Yearly	25.1	25.4	24.5	
Never	1.5	1.2	2.1	
Urine for microalbumin^c				
≤ 6 months	73.4	72.7	74.6	0.27
Yearly	16.6	16.1	17.6	
Never	10.0	11.2	7.7	
Creatinine test^c				
≤ 6 months	73.4	73.3	73.5	0.97
Yearly	23.5	23.4	23.8	
Never	3.1	3.2	2.8	
EKG measurement^c				
≤ 6 months	46.8	44.1	51.4	0.38
Yearly	26.1	27.1	24.3	
Never	27.1	28.7	24.3	

Recommended frequency: ^aTo be done every visit (per month or 3 months); ^bTo be done every 3 to 6 months; ^cTo be done yearly.

HbA1c = glycosylated haemoglobin; BMI = body mass index; ECG = electrocardiograph.

Physical examination includes height and weight, vital signs, blood pressure, eye examination, oral examination, cardiovascular including evaluation of pulses and bruits, abdominal examination, foot examination, neurological examination.