Foreword

Comprehensive Care of the Patient with Chronic Illness

The prevalence of one or more chronic medical conditions in patients presenting to the practicing general internist increases with age. In fact, in 2012, it was estimated that half of all adults—117 million people—had one or more chronic health conditions,¹ and that almost two-thirds of those over 65 years of age had multiple chronic medical conditions.² Historically, the care of the patient with chronic medical conditions has often been fragmented, leading to poor patient satisfaction and outcomes, as well as increased financial burden to our health care system. The comprehensive understanding of these chronic conditions and the ability to provide both longitudinal primary care as well as complex interdisciplinary care for these patients are essential.

In this issue of the Medical Clinics of North America, Dr Douglas S. Paauw and his expert colleagues present a comprehensive approach to the management of several chronic medical conditions. I believe the content will provide guidance to the practicing physician in what will result in more standardized, evidence-based, and patient-centered outcomes to our ongoing care of these patients.

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REFERENCES