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CONTACT:
Mary Kay Jezzini
SAGE Publicist
212-352-1404
publicity@sagepub.com

**DO JERUSALEM'S ARABS AND JEWS RECEIVE A DIFFERENT QUALITY OF MEDICAL CARE?
RESEARCH ON DIABETES CARE PUBLISHED IN *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL QUALITY***

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore (January 25, 2008) – Every permanent resident of Israel is entitled to basic health insurance, no matter what their nationality, but studies indicate that Arabs residing in Israel tend to have a higher prevalence of diabetes compared to the Jewish population. Why is that? What should be done about it? Recent research published by SAGE in the January/February issue of *American Journal of Medical Quality* examines those questions.

Researchers Amit Tirosh, Bmed, Ronit Calderon-Margalit, MD, MPH, Marianna Mazar, MD and Zvi Stern, MD compared the quality of care delivered to Jewish and Arab diabetes sufferers who were admitted to four major hospital emergency rooms in Jerusalem, to evaluate whether differences existed between the two groups and, if they did, their causes, given the common basis of health insurance coverage. The researchers found significant differences. As compared to the Jewish patients, Arab patients received:

- less diet counseling
- fewer recommendations and less support for physical activity
- less guidance in performing self foot examinations
- fewer medications prescribed

“Quality of care of Arab patients with diabetes is lower than that received by Jewish patients in the city,” write the authors in the article. “Resources should be invested in early detection of diabetes among the Arab population and in intensive treatment following diagnosis, together with lifestyle modifications to improve the quality of life among Arab patients with diabetes and to decrease the economic burden of the disease.”

The article, “Differences in Quality of Diabetes Care Between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem,” published by SAGE in the current issue of *American Journal of Medical Quality*, an official publication of The American College of Medical Quality, is available at no charge for a limited time at <http://ajm.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/23/1/60>.

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