

# CGMs and Medicare

It's time to cover this LIFE-Saving technology

## CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORS (CGMs)

CGMs detect, display and trend real-time glucose levels. This data is transmitted wirelessly, allowing individuals and those who care for them to constantly monitor trends. This technology enables better blood glucose control and helps users live their life without the fear of losing consciousness or enduring complications from dangerous blood sugar levels. Users of this device report sleeping soundly, driving confidently and drastically improving their quality of life. CGMs are NECESSARY for individuals with type 1 diabetes.

### TYPE 1 DIABETES

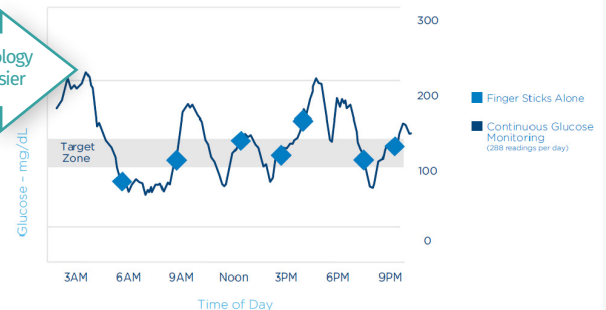
Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease in which a person's pancreas stops producing insulin, a hormone that enables people to get energy from food. Just to survive, people with type 1 diabetes take multiple injections of insulin daily or continually infuse insulin through a pump.



Americans may have type 1 diabetes

**CGM TECHNOLOGY** - Monitors minute by minute blood levels, allowing for better control. A sensor measures glucose levels just below the skin. The data is transmitted wirelessly to a receiver, which can be programmed to alert you when glucose levels get too high or too low, even during sleep.

Life-Saving Technology to Make Living Easier



### WHO'S COVERED:

95% of private health plans cover CGMs for individuals under the age of 65 with type 1 diabetes.

### WHO'S NOT COVERED:

Medicare beneficiaries with type 1 diabetes have to pay out-of-pocket for their CGM devices and supplies.

### WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE?

Every year, 16% of older Americans with type 1 diabetes experience seizures or episodes of unconsciousness due to severely low blood sugar.

# 16%



Seniors with insulin-dependent diabetes have disproportionately high rates of hospitalization and emergency room use.

Currently, costs for hypoglycemia inpatient admission average

# \$17,564

per visit.

Of the \$176 billion in diabetes related medical costs in 2012, 59% or \$104 BILLION is attributed to those age 65 and older.

# \$104 BILLION

# 11.7%

Among Medicare patients overall, the rate of hospitalization for hypoglycemia has risen 11.7% since 1999.

Nearly all private insurance plans cover CGMs because by viewing continuous data and responding to alerts, patients can react before glucose levels become dangerous.

## WHY NOT MEDICARE?

## EVERYONE PAYS WHEN MEDICARE DOESN'T COVER CGMs

**Congress has introduced legislation to provide Medicare coverage of CGMs!  
Ask your Members to support the Medicare CGM Access Act of 2015 (S. 804 / H.R. 1427)**

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