

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Pennsylvania Chapter

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Pennsylvania Chapter

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Dear Pennsylvania Pediatric Practice,

As conveyed in the recent PA AAP e-News, the enclosed educational campaign brings an important opportunity to provide valuable information on Type 1 diabetes/DKA to families in your practice. We are launching this campaign in recognition of National Diabetes Awareness Month (November); we hope you will use these materials throughout the year to help raise awareness for the community.

In partnership with Pennsylvania parent advocates Deborah Healy and Michelle Berman, as well as the nonprofit organization Beyond Type 1, the Pennsylvania Chapter is launching this statewide T1D/DKA awareness and education campaign for families through you – their trusted pediatric practice. By providing information about the warning signs of T1D for parents/caregivers and, in the process, reminding all of us in practice to take the extra step when assessing patients, we aim to reduce incidence of new onset DKA and save lives.

The incidence of Type 1 diabetes in youth is increasing, as evidenced by a Diabetes Care journal article ([Lipman et al., 2013](https://doi.org/10.2337/13111))¹ citing a 20-year retrospective review of the Philadelphia Pediatric Diabetes Registry. An estimated 36% of American children diagnosed with Type 1 are in DKA (diabetic ketoacidosis) at diagnosis often due to delayed diagnosis. The rate of DKA varies in countries around the globe, from 15% to 70%, with higher rates in developing countries. ([Razavi, 2010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdi.2010.08.001))² DKA is the leading cause of mortality in children with Type 1 diabetes ([Jeha, Haymond, 2014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdi.2014.08.001))³, and can contribute to additional long-term complications. Long-term complications also present a significant economic burden. While a Type 1 diagnosis means life-long dependence on insulin, constant monitoring and an increased risk of long-term complications, life with Type 1 can be endured; people with T1D do thrive and live beyond their diagnosis. Early diagnosis is key. Educating your community about the warning signs may well save lives.

Included in this package are educational posters and patient handouts for your waiting room. In addition, a digital portal at <https://beyondtype1.org/pennsylvania> is available where you will find digital versions of Warning Signs posters in a variety of languages, as well as multimedia assets for your practice to use, such as an audio recording from actor Victor Garber to play on your office telephone system when patients are on hold.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23340888>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3215499/>

³ <http://www.uptodate.com/contents/treatment-and-complications-of-diabetic-ketoacidosis-in-children>

Thank you in advance for helping us make this educational campaign successful. Pennsylvania is the very first chapter in the country to partner with families and Beyond Type 1 to make these educational materials available. Please help us evaluate the use of these materials by taking a moment to respond via the postcard enclosed.

Sincerely,


Denise Salerno, MD, FAAP
President, PA AAP


Deborah Healy, M.Ed.
T1D Parent Advocate


Michelle Berman
T1D Parent Advocate

On Behalf of Beyond Type 1:


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CEO & Co-Founder, Beyond Type 1


Nick Jonas
Co-Founder, Beyond Type 1


Thom Scher
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Juliet de Baubigny
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Sam Talbot
Co-Founder, Beyond Type 1


Victor Garber
Leadership Council, Beyond Type 1

Pennsylvania Pediatric Endocrinologists supporting this campaign:

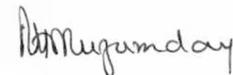
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