



BEYOND TYPE 2



February 10, 2022

Nebraska Legislative Assembly
Senate Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
Re: Support for NE LB698

RE: Support for LB698, Coverage for Continuous Glucose Monitors on NE Medicaid

Dear Chairman Arch and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

The listed organizations are writing to urge your support for Legislative Bill 698, a proposal directing Nebraska Medicaid to cover diabetes patient access to continuous glucose monitors (CGMs).

Continuous Glucose Monitors allow individuals with diabetes to track their glucose levels at regular intervals throughout the day and night and help patients with diabetes more accurately dose insulin. According to the American Diabetes Association, CGMs are today's recognized Standard of Medical Care for effective diabetes treatment for those patients on insulin therapy.

In the 2021 American Association of Clinical Endocrinology's (AACE) clinical practice guideline entitled, "The Use of Advanced Technology in the Management of Persons with Diabetes Mellitus," it specifically recommends the use of continuous glucose monitoring technology. The guideline outlines this key recommendation: "Structured CGM is recommended for all people with diabetes treated with intensive insulin therapy."

All commercial plans, Medicare and over 45 state Medicaid programs provide access to CGMs. **CGMs are life-saving devices**, and increased patient access to these devices will:

- ❖ Eliminate health care inequities for economically disadvantaged patients.
- ❖ Improve patient outcomes with proactive technology.
- ❖ Lower risk of COVID-19 complications, especially among ethnic minorities.
- ❖ Generate tangible health care savings through reduced hospitalizations due to real-time alerts and alarms and the share and follow feature.
- ❖ Reduce strain on health care providers through CGM telehealth capabilities.

Without proper care and monitoring, diabetes patients are at increased risk of blindness, limb amputation, kidney failure, and heart disease. Hospitalizations are expensive, and risks are heightened because of COVID-19. Today, diabetes related COVID complications account for 30 percent of all coronavirus hospital admissions and represent the second leading cause of pandemic deaths.

We respectfully urge your support for this proposal to:

1. **Eliminate health care inequities.** Today's structure favors an inequitable two-tiered health system where private insurance patients have access to lifesaving CGMs and Medicaid patients do not. The proposed legislative would ensure that treatment is determined based on the patient's condition, not the patient's financial status.
2. **Improve patient outcomes.** CGMs proactively help patients avoid disease progression (blindness, limb amputation, and kidney and heart disease), COVID complications, and hospitalization. Prevention of complications exponentially increases survival rates and is vastly more cost-effective than remediating treatment.
3. **Generate tangible health care savings.** CGMs clinically lowered hospitalization by more than 70 percent, which generates immediate and ongoing savings for the state.
4. **Reduce the strain on our health care system.** CGM remote monitoring and telehealth capabilities improve patient-provider access, limit COVID-19 exposure, and mitigate strain on our health care providers and healthcare systems.

We are proud to stand with you in this endeavor as we work to protect Nebraskans with diabetes and to ensure that ALL Nebraskans with diabetes have access to life-saving technologies.

Sincerely,

American Association of Clinical Endocrinology (AACE)
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (ADCES)
Beyond Type 1
Beyond Type 2
Children with Diabetes (CWD)
College Diabetes Network (CDN)
Diabetes Leadership Council (DLC)
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition (DPAC)
Diabetes Sisters
International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD)
Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants (NAPA)
Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA)
Nebraska Medical Association (NMA)
Taking Control of Your Diabetes (TCOYD)