

April 14, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Registered nurse and have been a Certified Diabetes Educator in the San Francisco Bay area for the past fifteen years. **The purpose of this correspondence is to advocate for coverage for the Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) for patients with diabetes on Medicare, regardless of age or disability.**

The majority of my patients (90%) are on Medicare and many have had Type 1 diabetes for over 40 years. **CMS does not currently cover personal CGM use, regardless of the medical need of the individual patient. This policy is flawed and in violation of the standards of care for the CGM guidelines of the American Diabetes Association (ADA), the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), and Endocrine Society.**

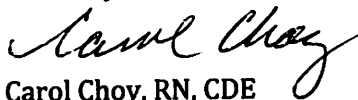
This denied coverage is in complete opposition to the current standard of care for Type 1 patients with episodes of severe hypoglycemia, hypoglycemia unawareness, and high mean blood sugars despite intensive insulin therapy. My primary concern is for our older patients with decades of living with diabetes. Through my experience as an educator, many are unable to sense severe low blood glucose and have had numerous ER visits. **The CMS is a vital safety net to keep our patients with diabetes out of the emergency room and prevent serious health complications.**

Raising medical costs (even with supplemental medical insurance) and limited financial resources prevent our older and younger disabled Type 1 patients on Medicare from utilizing CMS as an important component in improving and stabilizing blood glucose. I also have some patients have successfully used the CMS for years and managed their glucose control extremely well thanks to CMS only to be told that now they are on Medicare they no longer qualify for the device. How ironic to penalize someone who is doing their best to cope with the intense self management of diabetes and increase their risk of serious diabetes complications.

I, therefore, **STRONGLY** urge you to reconsider the value and benefit of using Continuous Glucose Monitoring for patients on Medicare, whether they are 65 or older, or on disability at any age.

CMS NEEDS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORING FOR PATIENTS WITH DIABETES!

Sincerely,



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