



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICINE

Kovler Diabetes Center

At the Forefront of Diabetes Care and Discovery

Knapp Center For Biological Discovery

The University of Chicago

900 E 57th St., Ste 8140, Chicago, IL 60637

March 9, 2015

In re: CGM coverage by CMS

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to support coverage of continuous glucose monitors (CGM) by CMS. The use of CGM is well established, well supported by the medical literature, is not experimental, and is in fact standard of care for individuals treated with insulin and at risk of hypo- and hyper glycemia. It is cruel, immoral, unethical, discriminatory and hopefully soon illegal to deny cost-effective and potentially life saving technology to people with diabetes.

I have been involved in Diabetes care for over 30 years and am currently President of the Chicago chapter of the American Diabetes Association community board. I have served on the ADA national board of directors. I write and lecture about diabetes and its management to a wide variety of students and medical professionals. I frequently review and recommend diabetes-related technology to my patients. My reading of the diabetes medical literature is that patients covered by Medicare should be supported in their successful use of diabetes technology to reduce medical costs of diabetes complications regardless of age.

This is especially the case in insulin-sensitive people. There are two devices currently in use and more are on the way to FDA approval as validated, dependable technology. To be clear, the devices are approved by the FDA. They allows for checking glucose levels 288 times per day, or every five minutes. It uses a subcutaneous sensor to detect and then transmit blood glucose information to a wireless receiver. The combination of continuous glucose monitoring with insulin pump therapy is now the state of the art approach to managing type 1 diabetes with the closest approximation to normal blood sugars while avoiding potentially life threatening high and low blood sugars. With these devices patients who check their blood sugar frequently and are very sensitive to insulin can maintain an active and healthy life style with excellent blood sugar control. The American Diabetes Association endorses the use of continuous glucose monitors for patients with type 1 diabetes. I strongly support the use of CGM.

Please contact me if I can be of further help.

Sincerely,

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