

Patient Advocate Statement:

Last year the legislature unanimously passed Assemblymember Adam Gray's AB 848, which would require the Department of Health Care Services to cover Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM) for people with diabetes under Medi-Cal. Governor Newsom vetoed this bill, as his predecessor did in 2017.

Governor Newsom should be commended for his continued advocacy for expanding Medi-Cal so more Californians have access to affordable health care. This commitment to affordable care should also extend to current Medi-Cal enrollees. Unfortunately, the governor's veto effectively denies care to Californians who, despite being covered by Medi-Cal, still cannot afford the products and treatments needed to effectively manage their diabetes.

CGM has revolutionized diabetes management for patients on intensive insulin therapy. It has become a standard of care per the American Diabetes Association's most recent guidelines. Over two-thirds of state Medicaid programs have adopted CGM coverage policies, including Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri. California covers CGM under California Children's Services but those patients lose CGM access when they age out of the program at age 21.

Governor Newsom, it is time for you to take action and catch up with other states to ensure Californians with diabetes in Medi-Cal have equal access to the diabetes technologies necessary for them to effectively manage their disease.

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