



May 18, 2021

Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
 State Capitol - Room 205
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
 State Capitol - Room 219
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Nancy Skinner
 Chair, Senate Budget Committee
 State Capitol - Room 5094
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Phil Ting
 Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
 State Capitol - Room 6026
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT for the Governor's Budget Proposal authorizing Medi-Cal coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) Systems

Dear Legislative and Budget Committee leaders:

The listed organizations are writing to urge your support for the Governor's 2021-22 budget proposal authorizing Medi-Cal diabetes patient access to continuous glucose monitors (CGMs). CGM access will:

- ❖ Eliminate health care inequities for economically disadvantaged patients.
- ❖ Lower risk of COVID-19 complications, especially among ethnic minorities.
- ❖ Improve patient outcomes with preventative technology.
- ❖ Generate tangible General Fund health care savings.
- ❖ Improve telehealth efficacy (consistent with the Governor's proposal) through CGM remote monitoring.

As you know, diabetes is a growing epidemic in our state. Approximately 3 million Californians (1 out of every 7 adults) have diabetes, and 247,000 new patients are diagnosed every year. Without proper care and monitoring, diabetes patients are at increased risk of blindness, limb amputation, kidney failure, and heart disease.

Hospitalization risks are heightened because of COVID-19. Diabetes-related COVID complications account for 30 percent of all coronavirus hospital admissions and represent the second leading cause of pandemic deaths. Even with vaccines, the impact on our minority communities is unacceptably disproportionate. Latinos, for example, account for almost half of all COVID-19 deaths in California, yet make up only 39 percent of the state's population.

We respectfully urge your leadership and support for this proposal to:

- **Protect our economically disadvantaged and minority populations.** Medi-Cal patient incomes are limited to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, which includes families who do not have options for working from home and thus run higher risks of COVID exposure. CGMs, along with vaccines, will protect our most vulnerable, reduce complications risks, and decrease hospitalization.
- **Eliminate health care inequities.** Today's Medi-Cal structure favors an inequitable two-tiered health system where private insurance patients have access to life-saving CGMs and Medi-Cal patients do not. The proposed Medi-Cal authorization would ensure that treatment is determined based on the patient's condition, not the patient's checkbook.
- **Improve patient outcomes.** CGMs proactively help patients avoid disease progression (blindness, limb amputation, and kidney and heart disease), COVID complications, and hospitalization. Prevention exponentially increases survival rates and is vastly more effective than remediating treatment.
- **Generates General Fund savings.** Annual Medi-Cal treatment for adults with diabetes runs approximately \$3.6 billion, or 14 percent of total Medi-Cal spending.

CGMs clinically lowered hospitalization by more than 70 percent, generating immediate and ongoing health care savings for the state.

- **Improve telehealth efficacy.** Consistent with the Governor’s proposal to continue telehealth beyond the pandemic, CGM remote data-sharing allows physicians to effectively monitor patient glucose readings and adjust treatment without the need for an office visit. This is especially important for patients who may not have convenient access to their doctor.

We respectfully urge your continued support of the Governor’s proposed coverage of CGMs for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. We are proud to stand with you in this endeavor as we work to protect our people, our state, and all that California stands for.

Sincerely,

Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)
American Diabetes Association
American Nurses Association\California (ANA\C)
Association of California Health Care Districts
Association of California Nurse Leaders (ACNL)
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (California Coordinating Body)
Beyond Type 1
Biocom
California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
California Access Coalition
California Alliance of Caregivers
California Association for Nurse Practitioners
California Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
California Association of Health Facilities
California Black Health Network
California Children’s Hospital Association
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Life Sciences Association
California Retailers Association
Children’s Specialty Care Coalition
Children With Diabetes
Clinical Association of California Endocrinologists
College Diabetes Network
DiabetesSisters
Diabetes Leadership Council
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
Perianesthesia Nurses Association of California
Taking Control of Your Diabetes

T1D Exchange
The diaTribe Foundation
Western Center on Law & Poverty

cc: Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Tam Ma, Legislative Deputy, Governor Gavin Newsom
Adam Dorsey, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance