
Abbott launches LibreLinkUp across Europe, free Android app for remote monitoring FreeStyle Libre sensor readings - November 10, 2016

Executive Highlights

- Abbott has launched [LibreLinkUp](#) across Europe, a free Android app enabling caregivers to remotely monitor FreeStyle Libre sensor readings. Following a patient's scan of the FreeStyle Libre sensor with the [LibreLink](#) Android app, a caregiver will see the result immediately and receive high/low notifications in LibreLinkUp.
- The launch brings remote monitoring to FreeStyle Libre users and keeps Abbott's app offerings competitive with Dexcom's G5/Share and Medtronic's MiniMed Connect.
- An Apple iOS version of LibreLinkUp is coming in 2017, according to the [FAQ](#).
- We're not sure if LibreLink or LibreLinkUp were submitted to the FDA as part of the consumer submission of FreeStyle Libre in [3Q16](#).

Abbott has officially launched [LibreLinkUp](#) across Europe, a free Android app enabling caregivers to remotely monitor FreeStyle Libre sensor readings. After a patient scans the FreeStyle Libre sensor using the already-launched [LibreLink](#) reader app (Android only), a caregiver will see the result immediately on his or her own phone and receive high/low notifications. LibreLinkUp is available on [Google Play](#) in Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

This app's development was never disclosed publicly, but is a great move to finally bring remote monitoring to Libre users, and especially to parents. LibreLinkUp also keeps Abbott's app offerings competitive with Dexcom's G5/Share and Medtronic's MiniMed Connect, which have both been gamechangers for many families' peace of mind.

LibreLinkUp requires patients to use the LibreLink Android app to scan their Libre sensor (i.e., those using the dedicated reader device alone will need to switch). Each scanned reading and trend arrow is then sent to a caregiver in LibreLinkUp, and the app shows up to the last 100 scans. From what we can tell, LibreLinkUp will not display the recent glucose trace like Dexcom Share or MiniMed Connect. Since the FreeStyle Libre sensor does not continuously send data to a patient's phone, the remote monitoring is reliant on patients physically scanning the sensor.

LibreLinkUp has encouraging early reviews on the [Google Play](#) store (4.1/5 stars, 16 reviews, 1,000-5,000 total downloads), while [LibreLink](#) has slightly lower ratings (3.5/5 stars, 525 reviews, 10,000-50,000 total downloads). Reviews do come with a negative bias, but they are a reminder that diabetes apps are expected to provide a seamless medical device-consumer electronics experience. For companies like Abbott, Dexcom, and Medtronic, it's a high bar in general (e.g., operating systems, devices, and communication constantly change), and an even higher bar for supporting Android phones (i.e., more variety).

An Apple iOS version of LibreLinkUp is coming in 2017, according to the [FAQ](#) on the LibreLinkUp website. This is presumably not difficult: LibreLinkUp only connects to the cloud and displays information; it doesn't have to deal with the iPhone's lack of NFC capabilities to directly scan a Libre sensor. We're not sure where an iPhone version of the LibreLink reader app stands, but hope one can be developed (perhaps with an NFC add on). Android is the dominant phone globally, however (including in the US), so this is likely a lower priority.

We're not sure if LibreLink or LibreLinkUp were submitted to the FDA as part of the consumer submission of FreeStyle Libre in [3Q16](#). We'll be on the lookout this week in Abbott's [DTM presentation](#) for more updates.

- **A patient can invite up to 20 connections to remotely monitor glucose data in LibreLinkUp, and each caregiver can also make connections with up to 20 LibreLink users.** While most patients will probably only share with a few people at most, the ability to monitor up to 20 Libre users may be relevant for HCPs or coaches.
- **The LibreLinkUp app was built in partnership with Newyu,** a similar move to the partnership with AirStrip to develop LibreLink. AirStrip is doing a good job of responding to feedback on LibreLink [on its Google Play page](#).
- **We're glad to see that patients can use the FreeStyle Libre reader device AND the LibreLink app during a sensor session. However, both devices must be scanned during the sensor's one-hour warm-up.** "The FreeStyle Libre sensor communicates with the FreeStyle Libre reader that started it or the LibreLink app that started it. A sensor started by the FreeStyle Libre reader will also communicate with the LibreLink app, provided that the LibreLink app is used to scan the sensor within an hour of the sensor starting up."
- **Proper etiquette is key with remote monitoring of glucose data.** While some families love the peace of mind of knowing a loved ones' glucose, we've heard that some quickly turn into diabetes police. We hope this improves over time as the field gains experience in this domain - perhaps a "Best Practices" guide could be developed and incorporated into apps as a Quick Start guide. Kerri Sparling wrote about remote monitoring etiquette on [diaTribe.org last year](#).

Understanding your child's glucose readings and trends



1 - Current glucose

Your child's latest glucose reading - the colour band indicates whether your child's glucose is high, low in target or out of target

2 - Trend arrow

Shows if your child's glucose is going up, down or changing slowly

3 - Scan history

Shows up to the last 100 scans



Chuck D.

2 days ago

5.8 ↘
mmol/L

4:11 PM EST
September 21, 2016

13.9 ↗
mmol/L

4:22 PM

September 13, 2016

6.2 ↘
mmol/L

4:10 PM

8.6 →
mmol/L

3:10 PM

6.9 →
mmol/L

12:08 PM

September 12, 2016



Sammy S.

2 hours ago

9:05 PM PST
January 5, 2015

221 ↓
mg/dL



James F.

1 min ago

9:05 PM EST
January 5, 2015

112 ↓
mg/dL



Fred H.

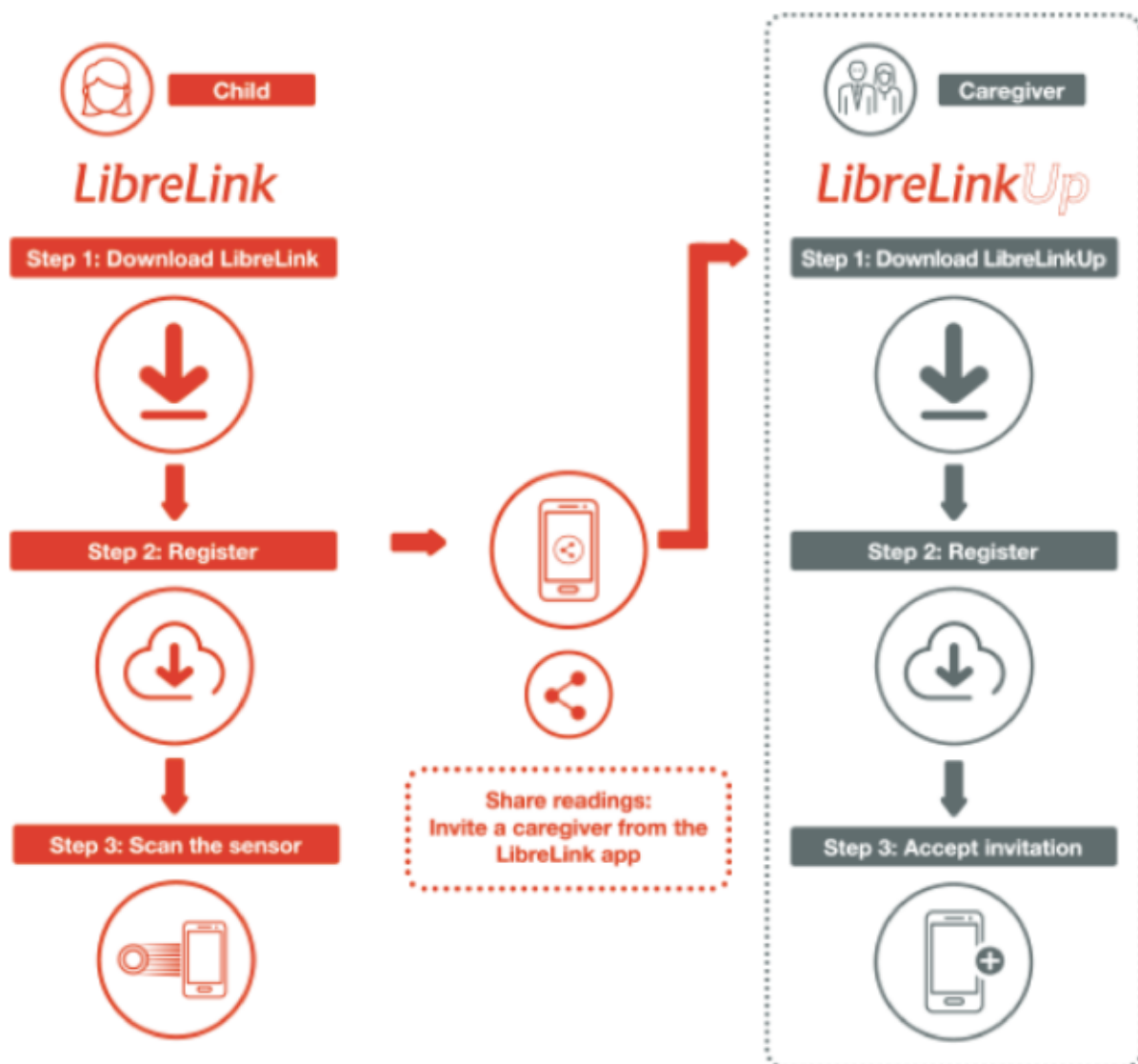
2 hours ago

10:30 AM PST
January 5, 2015

67 ↓
mg/dL

All times are PST





- **As a reminder, FreeStyle Libre is approved in Europe down to age four years.** Since it doesn't need a prescription in Europe, we assume any child that wants to use it can. The same is true for LibreLink and LibreLinkUp - they can be downloaded for free on the Google Play store.

Close Concerns Questions

Q: Were LibreLink and LibreLinkUp submitted to the FDA in 3Q16, along with the consumer version of FreeStyle Libre (reader + sensor)?

Q: How will Abbott continue to innovate on the software side of FreeStyle Libre?

Q: Will Abbott ever choose to put Bluetooth into the FreeStyle Libre sensor?

--by Adam Brown and Kelly Close