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## Cecelia Health extends telehealth support to diabetes clinics in partnership with the Helmsley Charitable Trust - May 18, 2020

*Over 50 university and hospitals will receive funding from Helmsley; subset will also receive access to Cecelia's CDEs for technology onboarding and diabetes education support*

In partnership with the Helmsley Charitable Trust, Cecelia Health [announced](#) that it will be providing "essential" clinical support to people with diabetes in the United States. "Over 50 universities and hospitals" are receiving funding for their diabetes clinics from Helmsley during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to financial support, a subset of these clinics will now also have access to Cecelia's team of certified diabetes care education and care specialists, which will provide the following support to insulin-dependent individuals:

- BGM, CGM, and insulin pump technology management support
- Scheduling telemedicine visits
- Uploading CGM and insulin data prior to telemedicine appointments
- Education to children, parents, and caregivers of pediatric type 1s
- Assessing possible dosage and titration changes and follow-ups with endocrinologists
- Identifying resources for discounted or free medications and diabetes supplies
- Lifestyle and behavioral health coaching
- Facilitating prior authorizations and letters of medical necessity
- "Lending an ear" to address the mental health challenges that accompany the increased risk diabetes patients have for contracting COVID-19

Helping support clinics in their transition to telemedicine will be a great win for both patients and providers; in particular, some patients take more time than they may expect learning how to upload CGM and medication data, particularly insulin. Since the advent of COVID-19, both Cecelia and Helmsley have taken steps to help diabetes patients. In March, Cecelia [announced](#) several support and capacity expansions to meet demand while Helmsley has committed over [\\$24 million in grants](#) to [support projects](#) in rural healthcare, type 1 diabetes, and Israel. Well before the pandemic, Helmsley was involved in bringing telehealth services [to rural Midwestern states](#) through its work on rural health.

- **In June**, Cecelia plans on launching a new "nationwide" virtual clinic to remotely prescribe devices and medications. The clinic will specifically provide support with CGM onboarding, data interpretation, and medication regimen changes. According to Cecelia CEO Mr. David Weingard, demand for the clinic is very high, with its launch bigger than initially planned. Notably, Helmsley, Jaeb, and Cecelia have piloted the virtual clinic (n=36) and presented results at [ATTD 2020](#): [study participants remotely initiated on CGM \(n=27 type 1s, n=7 type 2s\) - including prescription, shipment and education - used the device an average 95% of the time \(6.9 days/week\) during the 12-week study period and saw a statistically significant -1.1% decline in A1c from 8.3% at baseline. Time in Range, estimated from A1c at baseline, also jumped from 48% to 59% \(p<0.001\) over the 12 weeks, which was a good result and one that also left some upside for further improvement.](#)

*--by Ani Gururaj, Albert Cai, and Kelly Close*