
Medicare CGM Access Act Update: sponsorship improving, though 64% of diabetes caucus members have not signed on - September 8, 2015

Executive Highlights

- As of today, 27 Senators (27%) and 134 House members (31%) have cosponsored the 2015 Medicare CGM Access Act 2015, solid progress since the bill was [reintroduced in March](#). However, a striking 64% of Congressional diabetes caucus members have yet to co-sponsor the bill, which we think is fairly lame. Where are the staffers that should be watching out for these leaders? The senators and representatives are listed below; use [JDRF's contact form](#) to tell them where to jump! We mean, of course, tell them how to prove that their Diabetes Caucus membership is genuine - and that they can show patients and those working in the field are truly committed.
- As background, Dexcom expects to secure an [insulin-dosing claim](#) in the US sometime next year. This should address the first key hurdle to Medicare coverage of CGM - establishing a benefit category. From there, Medicare coverage will rest on the clinical evidence supporting CGM in the Medicare population.

Bipartisan support of the Medicare CGM Access Act of 2015 continues to grow following the [reintroduction in the Senate and House of Representatives](#) in late March. As of today, 27 Senators and 134 House members have cosponsored the bill, solid progress in just four months. However, there is so much low-hanging fruit - a striking 64% of Congressional [Diabetes Caucus](#) members have yet to co-sponsor the bill (see the full list below). This list includes 17 non-sponsoring Senate Diabetes Caucus members out of 28 total members, and 214 non-sponsoring House Diabetes Caucus members out of 330 total - yes, two-thirds of the House is on the Diabetes Caucus! JDRF is obviously working incredibly hard to change this, and its [page here](#) makes it easy to send a letter to members of Congress; we just did it and it took fewer than five minutes.

Passing the bill would be a tremendous victory, as it would create a Medicare benefit category for CGM and establish a payment and coding structure to go along with it. The bill has also been strategically drafted to pave the way for reimbursing future artificial pancreas technologies. The [2014 iteration](#) did not secure enough sponsorship before Congress ended, but that has not deterred the type 1 diabetes community. Last month Bob Amato, a type 1 for an impressive 67 years (and a patient of the great Dr. Howard Wolpert), delivered a [stirring testimony](#) before the Senate Aging Committee about the need for CGM. He benefited greatly while enrolled in the JDRF CGM trial, but has since been unable to access it. The stirring two pages of remarks are [very worth reading here](#), detailing his battle with hypoglycemia unawareness and a car accident that almost killed him. Joslin has been terrific in helping medalists advocate in front of Congress.

[As a reminder](#), Medicare's primary objection to covering CGM stems from the adjunctive labeling (i.e., that treatment decisions be based on BGM readings rather than CGM readings). Dexcom seems very close to overcoming this objection, as its [2Q15 call](#) predicted an [insulin-dosing claim](#) in the US sometime next year. Such a replacement claim should address the first key hurdle to Medicare coverage of CGM - establishing a benefit category. Medicare will then assess whether there is sufficient evidence to support coverage of CGM for the Medicare population. We assume that is the case but are not positive - are there enough studies of CGM in the elderly population? Of course, there is plenty of compelling data on severe hypoglycemia in the elderly, particularly those with longstanding type 1 diabetes.

Estimates suggest that roughly 25-30% of the type 1 diabetes population is enrolled in Medicare, which translates to ~400,000 patients (assuming ~1.5 million type 1s in the US). In new news to us, JDRF further estimates that roughly one-third of type 1s on Medicare (~133,000 patients) are [under](#) 65 years old. We

were surprised to hear this and of course that makes the passage of this legislation even more important for the broader type 1 community. We salute the entire coalition working on this bill, which includes AADE, AACE, Endocrine Society, JDRF, Dexcom, J&J, and Medtronic. We just hope Congress sees the ROI - many believe, of course, that the fairly dysfunctional Congress will just say no to anything that costs money.

- **Nearly two thirds (59%) of total diabetes-related medical costs are attributed to those 65 years and older.** Much of this obviously stems from type 2 diabetes, but we imagine a non-trivial amount comes from type 1. T1D Exchange data suggests that 16% of patients over 65 years with longstanding type 1 diabetes (>40 years) have experienced at least one severe hypoglycemia episode in the past year (seizure or loss of consciousness) - that stat is incredibly striking every single time we hear it.
- **No one has terribly accurate numbers on the total annual cost of hypoglycemia-related hospitalizations, but at an estimated [\\$17,500 for each visit](#), it should theoretically pale in comparison to the cost of CGM.** The big question is the number-needed-to-treat - how many patients need to wear CGM 24/7 to avoid one severe hypoglycemia admission? This number is also constantly improving as CGM gets cheaper through work from Abbott and Dexcom/Google.
 - **At [DTM 2014](#), Dr. Claudia Graham estimated that using CGM would save payers ~\$89 million per year** (assuming they have 10 million covered lives and a 46% reduction in severe hypoglycemia). The number ranged in sensitivity analyses from \$59 million (with \$1,200/year higher cost CGM) to \$329 million (with a 100% reduction in severe hypoglycemia). The long list of assumptions is noted [here](#). Dr. Graham emphasized that the model is a "starting point," as there are many research gaps, especially appropriately powered clinical studies to examine reductions in hypoglycemia and severe hypoglycemia with CGM. We would've guessed the number would've been higher, but \$90 million could fund a lot for patients, that's for sure.
- **A striking 64% of Congressional and Senatorial diabetes caucus members have yet to sponsor the Medicare CGM Access Act - these individuals are listed below.** This list includes 17 non-sponsoring Senate Diabetes Caucus members out of 28 total members, and 214 non-sponsoring House Diabetes Caucus members out of 330 total. It is unbelievable to us that so many government leaders who support diabetes work (in theory) and could be a member of the Diabetes Caucus could not to support this bill. View the list of current co-sponsors here: [S. 804 U.S. Senate](#) and [H.R. 1427 U.S. House](#).

Table 1: Senate Diabetes Caucus Members That Have Not Sponsored [S. 804](#)

AL	Jeff	Sessions	REP
AL	Richard	Shelby	REP
AZ	John	McCain	REP
CA	Barbara	Boxer	DEM
DE	Thomas	Carper	DEM
GA	David	Perdue	REP
MD	Barbara	Mikulski	DEM
MI	Gary	Peters	DEM
NJ	Robert	Menendez	DEM
NY	Charles	Schumer	DEM

OK	James	Inhofe	REP
OR	Ron	Wyden	DEM
SD	Mike	Rounds	REP
UT	Orrin	Hatch	REP
VT	Bernard	Sanders	IND
WA	Maria	Cantwell	DEM
WA	Patty	Murray	DEM

Table 2: House Diabetes Caucus Members That Have Not Sponsored [H.R. 1427](#)

AK	Don	Young	REP
AL	Martha	Roby	REP
AL	Mike	Rogers	REP
AL	Terri	Sewell	DEM
AR	Rick	Crawford	REP
AR	French	Hill	REP
AZ	Kyrsten	Sinema	DEM
CA	Jared	Huffman	DEM
CA	John	Garamendi	DEM
CA	Ami	Bera	DEM
CA	Jerry	McNerney	DEM
CA	Jeff	Denham	REP
CA	Mark	DeSaulnier	DEM
CA	Nancy	Pelosi	DEM
CA	Barbara	Lee	DEM
CA	Jackie	Speier	DEM
CA	Eric	Swalwell	DEM
CA	Jim	Costa	DEM
CA	David	Valadao	REP
CA	Devin	Nunes	REP
CA	Kevin	McCarthy	REP
CA	Lois	Capps	DEM
CA	Adam	Schiff	DEM

CA	Brad	Sherman	DEM
CA	Grace	Napolitano	DEM
CA	Xavier	Becerra	DEM
CA	Karen	Bass	DEM
CA	Linda	Sánchez	DEM
CA	Lucille	Roybal-Allard	DEM
CA	Ken	Calvert	REP
CA	Maxine	Waters	DEM
CA	Janice	Hahn	DEM
CA	Loretta	Sanchez	DEM
CA	Darrell	Issa	REP
CA	Duncan	Hunter	REP
CA	Juan	Vargas	DEM
CO	Jared	Polis	DEM
CO	Scott	Tipton	REP
CO	Ken	Buck	REP
CO	Mike	Coffman	REP
CO	Ed	Perlmutter	DEM
CT	Joe	Courtney	DEM
CT	Rosa	DeLauro	DEM
CT	Jim	Himes	DEM
DE	John	Carney	DEM
FL	Jeff	Miller	REP
FL	Gwen	Graham	DEM
FL	Ander	Crenshaw	REP
FL	Bill	Posey	REP
FL	Alan	Grayson	DEM
FL	Gus	Bilirakis	REP
FL	Vern	Buchanan	REP
FL	Lois	Frankel	DEM
FL	Debbie	Wasserman Schultz	DEM

FL	Frederica	Wilson	DEM
FL	Ileana	Ros-Lehtinen	REP
GA	Sanford	Bishop	DEM
GA	Lynn	Westmoreland	REP
GA	Tom	Price	REP
GA	Austin	Scott	REP
GA	David	Scott	DEM
GA	Tom	Graves	REP
GM	Madeleine	Bordallo	DEM
HI	Mark	Takai	DEM
HI	Tulsi	Gabbard	DEM
ID	Mike	Simpson	REP
IL	Robin	Kelly	DEM
IL	Luis	Gutiérrez	DEM
IL	Peter	Roskam	REP
IL	Mike	Bost	REP
IL	John	Shinkus	REP
IN	Peter	Visclosky	DEM
IN	Marlin	Stutzman	REP
IN	Todd	Rokita	REP
IN	Susan	Brooks	REP
IN	Luke	Messer	REP
IN	Larry	Bucshon	REP
IN	Todd	Young	REP
KS	Lynn	Jenkins	REP
KS	Kevin	Yoder	REP
KS	Mike	Pompeo	REP
KY	Brett	Guthrie	REP
KY	Andy	Barr	REP
LA	Steve	Scalise	REP
LA	Cedric	Richmond	DEM

LA	Charles	Boustany	REP
LA	Ralph	Abraham	REP
MA	Richard	Neal	DEM
MA	Joseph	Kennedy	DEM
MA	Seth	Moulton	DEM
MA	William	Keating	DEM
MD	C.A. Dutch	Ruppersberger	DEM
MD	John	Sarbanes	DEM
MD	Donna	Edwards	DEM
MD	Steny	Hoyer	DEM
MD	John	Delaney	DEM
MD	Elijah	Cummings	DEM
ME	Bruce	Poliquin	REP
MI	Dan	Benishek	REP
MI	Bill	Huizenga	REP
MI	Dan	Kildee	DEM
MI	Fred	Upton	REP
MI	Sander	Levin	DEM
MI	Candice	Miller	REP
MI	Debbie	Dingell	DEM
MI	Brenda	Lawrence	DEM
MN	John	Kline	REP
MO	Wm. Lacy	Clay	DEM
MO	Ann	Wagner	REP
MO	Blaine	Luetkemeyer	REP
MO	Emanuel	Cleaver II	DEM
MO	Billy	Long	REP
MO	Jason	Smith	REP
MP	Gregorio	Sablan	DEM
MS	Bennie	Thompson	DEM
MS	Steven	Palazzo	REP

NC	G.K.	Butterfield	DEM
NC	Renee	Ellmers	REP
NC	Walter	Jones	REP
NC	Robert	Pittenger	REP
NC	Alma	Adams	DEM
NC	George	Holding	REP
ND	Kevin	Cramer	REP
NH	Ann	McLane Kuster	DEM
NJ	Frank	LoBiondo	REP
NJ	Scott	Garrett	REP
NJ	Frank	Pallone, Jr.	DEM
NJ	Leonard	Lance	REP
NJ	Bill	Pascrell, Jr.	DEM
NJ	Donald	Payne, Jr.	DEM
NJ	Rodney	Frelinghuysen	REP
NJ	Bonnie	Watson Coleman	DEM
NM	Ben	Ray Luján	DEM
NY	Lee	Zeldin	REP
NY	Kathleen	Rice	DEM
NY	Gregory	Meeks	DEM
NY	Nydia	Velázquez	DEM
NY	Hakeem	Jeffries	DEM
NY	Jerrold	Nadler	DEM
NY	Joseph	Crowley	DEM
NY	José	Serrano	DEM
NY	Nita	Lowey	DEM
NY	John	Katko	REP
OH	Brad	Wenstrup	REP
OH	Jim	Jordan	REP
OH	Bob	Latta	REP
OH	Bill	Johnson	REP

OH	Bob	Gibbs	REP
OH	Marcy	Kaptur	DEM
OH	Marcia	Fudge	DEM
OH	Pat	Tiberi	REP
OH	James	Renacci	REP
OK	Jim	Bridenstine	REP
OK	Frank	Lucas	REP
OK	Tom	Cole	REP
OR	Suzanne	Bonamici	DEM
OR	Greg	Walden	REP
OR	Kurt	Schrader	DEM
PA	Chaka	Fattah	DEM
PA	Mike	Kelly	REP
PA	Scott	Perry	REP
PA	Patrick	Meehan	REP
PA	Bill	Shuster	REP
PA	Tom	Marino	REP
PA	Mike	Doyle	DEM
PA	Charlie	Dent	REP
PA	Joe	Pitts	REP
PA	Tim	Murphy	REP
PR	Pedro	Pierluisi	DEM
RI	David	Cicilline	DEM
SC	Jeff	Duncan	REP
SC	Mick	Mulvaney	REP
SC	James	Clyburn	DEM
SD	Kristi	Noem	REP
TN	Phil	Roe	REP
TN	John	Duncan	REP
TN	Chuck	Fleischmann	REP
TN	Jim	Cooper	DEM

TN	Marsha	Blackburn	REP
TN	Stephen	Fincher	REP
TX	Louie	Gohmert	REP
TX	Joe	Barton	REP
TX	John	Culberson	REP
TX	Kevin	Brady	REP
TX	Michael	McCaul	REP
TX	Kay	Granger	REP
TX	Rubén	Hinojosa	DEM
TX	Beto	O'Rourke	DEM
TX	Sheila	Jackson Lee	DEM
TX	Joaquin	Castro	DEM
TX	Kenny	Marchant	REP
TX	Roger	Williams	REP
TX	Michael	Burgess	REP
TX	Gene	Green	DEM
TX	Eddie Bernice	Johnson	DEM
TX	Pete	Sessions	REP
TX	Filemon	Vela	DEM
TX	Lloyd	Doggett	DEM
UT	Jason	Chaffetz	REP
VA	Rob	Wittman	REP
VA	Robert	Scott	DEM
VA	J. Randy	Forbes	REP
VA	Robert	Goodlatte	REP
VA	Barbara	Comstock	REP
WA	Jaime	Herrera Beutler	REP
WA	Dan	Newhouse	REP
WA	Cathy	McMorris Rodgers	REP
WA	Jim	McDermott	DEM
WA	Dave	Reichert	REP

WA	Adam	Smith	DEM
WI	Paul	Ryan	REP
WI	Sean	Duffy	REP
WV	David	McKinley	REP
WY	Cynthia	Lummis	REP

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