

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 16, 2017

The Honorable Seema Verma, MPH  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independent Avenue, S.W., Room 445-G  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

We applaud the January 2017 decision by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide coverage for certain continuous glucose monitors. This rule change helps improve the lives of millions of Americans who are living with Type 1 diabetes and who rely on a continuous glucose monitor to manage the disease successfully.

We urge you to build on this change in policy and work to ensure that Medicare coverage policies keep up with developing technology and encourage clinically appropriate treatment. In today's ever changing environment, we are optimistic that scientists are discovering better disease management tools and treatments every day, and believe CMS should closely follow these changes through their approval process. For instance, patch pumps that provide continuous insulin delivery from a patch without the need for tubes, such as the Omnipod Insulin Management System, which the Food and Drug Administration first approved in 2005, are covered by many private insurers, yet CMS has not included these devices for coverage under Medicare. Consequently, individuals with diabetes may lose coverage for the physician-prescribed therapies they have been successfully using to manage their diabetes when they age into Medicare. As such, we urge CMS to take into consideration approved therapies that make patients' lives more manageable, and to be ready to review and cover newly developed therapies and devices that improve the lives of those living with diabetes.

Effective management of diabetes is crucial to holding down health care costs and helping seniors manage their diabetes successfully to allow them to continue to live healthy and productive lives, made more manageable by the latest, scientifically-supported tools and therapies. We urge your careful review of Medicare coverage policies for patch pumps and other life-saving therapies for diabetes, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to continuing to work together to find better means of prevention, management, and treatment of patients with diabetes.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator