



November 8, 2022

Arkansas Health Services Subcommittee House and Senate  
Senate Chair Kim Hammer via kim.hammer@senate.ar.gov  
House Chair Aaron Pilkington via aaron.pilkington@arkansashouse.org  
Members of the Committee via email

Dear Chair Hammer and Chair Pilkington and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the American Diabetes Association (ADA), to support providing Medicaid beneficiaries with access to Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs) through the pharmacy benefit.

The ADA is the nation's largest voluntary health organization concerned with the health of people with diabetes. An estimated 13.9% (321,645) of Arkansians have diabetes, a chronic illness that requires continuing medical care and ongoing patient self-management to prevent acute complications and reduce the risk of long-term complications, such as blindness, amputation, kidney failure, heart attack, and stroke.

Advances in treatments, including continuous glucose monitoring (CGM), have been shown to be effective tools in diabetes management and the prevention of complications associated with the disease. ADA's 2022 *Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes (Standards)*, which is updated annually by a committee of U.S. experts in diabetes care, provides that the use of professional CGM and/or intermittent real-time or intermittently scanned CGM can be helpful in identifying and correcting patterns of hyper- and hypoglycemia and improving A1C levels in people with diabetes on noninsulin as well as basal insulin regimens.<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately, there continue to be gaps in access to CGM and other technologies among under-served populations, including – and perhaps most acutely – in the Medicaid population. ADA applauds the Arkansas legislature for enacting legislation to address coverage of CGMs to further broaden access for people with diabetes. CGMs will enable them to better manage their diabetes and may result in fewer adverse health outcomes or even premature deaths.

ADA supports measures that will appropriately expand access to CGM technology for Medicaid beneficiaries with diabetes. Eliminating burdensome requirements for access to CGMs is vital to reducing disparities in utilization particularly among under-served people with diabetes. A key effort to broaden CGM access is to move CGM to a pharmacy benefit. This would increase access for the diverse population that can benefit from the devices.

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<sup>1</sup> American Diabetes Association: Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes 2021, Diabetes Care 44: Supp. 1, p.S88 (January 2021).