



April 30, 2024

Subject: Regarding Medicaid patients access to continuous glucose monitoring devices
To the lawmakers of the State of Arkansas:

I am writing to urgently address the critical issue affecting the timely access to continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) for patients covered under Medicaid in our state. As a native to Arkansas and a physician specializing in endocrinology and diabetes practicing in Fayetteville for the past 10 years, I have been witness to the evolution of diabetes technology and how vulnerable Medicaid patients in Arkansas have slower access to the standards of care for diabetes.

Initially, the state's decision to grant Medicaid coverage for CGMs was a significant step forward in improving management of diabetes and was in line with the American Diabetes Association's statement for "individuals on CGM to have consistent access to devices". However, the requirement for these devices to be exclusively provided by durable medical equipment (DME) companies has resulted in significant delays in care, ultimately compromising the health and well-being of people with diabetes. Many times, I spend most of a Medicaid patient visit discussing the difficulty maintaining access to their CGM and the fear of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) they experience when they go without CGM.

Patients relying on Medicaid deserve the same level of accessibility to the essential medical devices as those with commercial insurance who already consistently and for many years get CGM through local pharmacies. By limiting the distribution of CGMs to DME companies, we are inadvertently impeding timely delivery of vital tools for managing diabetes effectively. Delay not only hampers the quality of care, but also increases the risk of complications and hospitalizations for our patients—all of which are reduced with consistent CGM use.

As a physician in Arkansas, I am committed to providing the best possible care and advocate for a change in the method of CGM distribution for people with diabetes. Transitioning to a system that allows these devices to be obtained through pharmacies will streamline the process and ensure prompt access to CGMs for all eligible individuals. I understand this transition may pose challenges to some DME companies. However, it is crucial to prioritize the health and well being of our *patients* above all else. I urge you to consider the compelling need to allow Arkansans with Medicaid the same successful access to CGM that Medicaid patients in at least 37 other states already have including Missouri and Oklahoma.

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue for people living with diabetes. I would be happy to speak in person if given the opportunity. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly if you have any questions that might help in this decision making process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Rachel Kilpatrick MD, FACE".

C. Rachel Kilpatrick, MD, FACE
Medical Director, Washington Regional Endocrinology Clinic
Cell phone: 479-530-6001
Work email: rkilpatrick@wregional.com
Personal email: rachelkilpatrick@gmail.com