



# The Point

December 2021

*Making diabetes care better, less frustrating and more fun since 2008*

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- **Medi-cal Rx updates for diabetes meds/devices**

## MEDI-CAL RX UPDATES

Be informed about changes starting January 1, 2022! We mostly anticipate a smooth transition, but there are some details about diabetes medications and devices to know about and guide your patients, especially surrounding changes to coverage of continuous glucose monitors.

Things are also evolving, and may change in the future. For now, this is what we know:

### Medications

- The Medi-cal Rx formulary is quite comprehensive for diabetes medications including most frequently used **SGLTs** (Jardiance/empagliflozin, Farxiga/dapagliflozin) and **GLP-1s** (Victoza/liraglutide, Ozempic/SQ semaglutide, Rybelsus/oral semaglutide, Bydureon/exenatide ER, Trulicity/dulaglutide)
- Formulary also covers a variety of long and short acting insulins, vials and pens, including the Humalog Junior Kwikpen which offers 1/2 unit dosing
- PA is available for other options, submit online via CoverMyMeds
- If you don't have the on-line formulary search yet, the link is [here](#)

### Glucometer and testing supplies

- **SAME:** Folks using Accu-chek Aviva, Guide, Guide Me or TrueMetrix meters can continue getting the associated test strips and lancets. New starts can also get the glucometer from the pharmacy
- **NEW:** Prodigy Autocode meter is a talking meter for vision-impaired, now covered!
- **NOT COVERED:** Accu-chek Nano meter which uses Smartview test strips is not covered. Very few patients in our system use this meter, but now would be the

time to transition to a covered meter

- **NEW QTY LIMITS:** testing supplies depend on insulin use or not. PA required if your patient needs higher quantity. Pay attention to days supply:
  1. on insulin, limited to 150 test strips/200 lancets/ **30 d**
  2. not on insulin, limited to 100 test strips/100 lancets per **90d**
  3. GDM +/- insulin, limited to 150 test strips/200 lancets/ **30 d**

### Continuous glucose monitors

- **NEW STARTS FOR T1DM:** eligible by PA. If approved, Freestyle Libre/Freestyle Libre 2 and Dexcom G6 will all be pharmacy benefit. Specialty pharmacies like Walgreens in Mission Bay and Alto Pharmacy are more familiar with ordering Dexcom G6 supplies
- **NEW STARTS FOR T2DM:** no longer eligible under Medi-cal Rx. We are advocating for consideration of CGM coverage for patients with T2DM on multiple daily injections of insulin, but don't have clear answers at this time. Stay tuned!
- **PRE-EXISTING USERS OF CGM:** there is a 6 mo grandfathering period to continue existing supplies, whether T1 or T2DM. **By July 1, 2022, prescriber must submit PA renewal documenting the following criteria:**
  - *The beneficiary has been seen and evaluated by an endocrinologist or a healthcare practitioner with experience in diabetes management and continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion therapy at least every six (6) months, either in-person or virtually through video or telephone conferencing, to evaluate the efficacy of the therapeutic CGM system and no more than three (3) months prior to submission of the reauthorization request. Visit summaries must accompany each request; including, but not limited to, the following measurements:*
  - *CGM daily profile summaries (date ranges should be defined)*
    - *Number of days CGM worn*
    - *% of time CGM is active*
    - *Mean glucose*
    - *Glucose variability (%CV) target*
    - *Time in Range*
    - *% Time in Range*
    - *% Time Below Range – when the percentages of CGM values falling below 54 mg/dL or 70 mg/dL are close to or exceed targets*
  - *Defined clinical targets*
  - *Goals achieved or maintained; and*
  - *The beneficiary has been using the therapeutic CGM system as prescribed, wearing the CGM at least five (5) days per week of use or twenty (20) days of use per month; and*
  - *The beneficiary has been able to improve or maintain glycemic control; or continues to use an external insulin pump; and*
  - *A HbA1c (A1c) value measured within six (6) months must be documented on the PA request; and*
  - *Refill Requirements, all three (3) requirements must be met:*
    - *Pharmacy providers are required to have contact with the beneficiary or*

- caregiver prior to dispensing a new supply of items; and,*
- Pharmacy providers must not dispense refills without a refill request from a beneficiary. Items dispensed without a valid, documented refill request will be denied as not reasonable or necessary; and*
- Pharmacy providers must not dispense a quantity of supplies exceeding a beneficiary's expected utilization, and maximum dispensing limitations apply based upon the products dispensed, utilization limitations, and requested days' supply*

### **Insulin pumps**

Still requires PA process. There are lots of nuances and pros/cons among the three major pumps in the U.S., with and without sensor-augmented functions. Please eConsult to Diabetes Clinic for assessment, pre-pump education, support and guidance.



[sfghdiabetes.org](https://www.sfghdiabetes.org)