



DPAC & NDVLC Joint Statement on Part D Senior Savings Model

May 26, 2020

DPAC and NDVLC welcome today's announcement from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that 88 Medicare plan sponsors will join the national effort to reduce insulin costs for Medicare beneficiaries by participating in the Part D Senior Savings Model. Beginning with the 2021 plan year, 3.3 million Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes will see lower, more predictable insulin costs throughout the plan year – capped at \$35 for a month's supply of insulin.

This announcement marks a significant step forward for insulin access and affordability. It underscores the combined commitment required to address gaps in our nation's health care system – advocates, manufacturers, employers and other health plan sponsors, insurers, pharmacy benefit managers, health care providers and policymakers.

It further validates the importance of pre-deductible coverage for lifesaving insulin, yielding better health outcomes for people with diabetes and lower overall health plan costs. All public and private health plans should provide preventive, pre-deductible coverage for insulin and other essential diabetes care – with no or low, predictable patient cost sharing.

Our diabetes patient advocates have shared firsthand what this action means for them. Here are just a few perspectives of the many we received:

Knowing that the drug you rely on to live is going to be priced affordably means you can plan your life, have financial stability, and takes away the constant struggle that you may not have any insulin tomorrow. Less worry and stress in your daily life creates better blood sugar numbers which in turn creates a healthier person. Win, win.

Bob, Medicare beneficiary, T1D in New York

As a small business owner, I can't forgo my health because my employees rely on me. I use insulin daily. Diabetics like me need to eat better quality food – that's expensive. We need to have a steady stream of supplies, which can get expensive quickly, but the single most effective prescription I absolutely need is also the most expensive. Any change or policy that makes insulin more affordable will dramatically improve, and save, millions of lives.

Sam, Medicare beneficiary, T2D in Texas

As a government retiree, I have been fortunate to receive above average health coverage. Even so, my copay for my prescriptions for this disease costs me \$100 per drug per month. When you consider that I take 3 different insulins, that's \$300 every single month. I am grateful it is getting the attention it needs, especially during the pandemic.

Dorothy, Medicare beneficiary, T2D in Oklahoma

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The Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition is an alliance of people with diabetes, caregivers, patient advocates, health professionals, diabetes organizations and companies working collaboratively to promote and support public policy initiatives to improve the health of people with diabetes. DPAC seeks to ensure the safety and quality of medications, devices, and services; and access to care for all 30.3 million Americans with diabetes. For more information, go to diabetespac.org.

The National Diabetes Volunteer Leadership Council (NDVLC) acts on emerging and evolving issues that impact people with diabetes by convening, collaborating, and communicating with the diabetes ecosystem to drive results. NDVLC is comprised of individuals who combine their passion for advocacy with decades of diabetes experience and leadership to advance patients-first policies at the local, state and national levels. Our members – all former leaders of national diabetes organizations – engage policymakers, and public and private sector influencers to call attention to the diabetes epidemic and provide a voice for 30 million Americans living with the disease. For more information, go to ndvlc.org.