

**Large Print Edition**

# **Medicare's Coverage of Diabetes Supplies & Services**

**This official government guide has important information about:**

- What's covered
- What's not covered
- Helpful tips to keep you healthy
- Where to get more information



**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

## **Notice of Availability of Auxiliary Aids & Services**

We're committed to making our programs, benefits, services, facilities, information, and technology accessible in accordance with Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. We've taken appropriate steps to make sure that people with disabilities, including people who are deaf, hard of hearing or blind, or who have low vision or other sensory limitations, have an equal opportunity to participate in our services, activities, programs, and other benefits. We provide various auxiliary aids and services to communicate with people with disabilities, including:

**Relay service** — TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

**Alternate formats** — This product is available in alternate formats, including large print, Braille, audio, CD, or as an eBook. To request a Medicare product in an alternate format, call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048. To request the Medicare & You handbook in an alternate format, visit [Medicare.gov/medicare-and-you](https://www.Medicare.gov/medicare-and-you).

**For all other CMS publications:**

1. Call 1 844 258 - 3676. TTY users should call 1 844 716 - 3676.
2. Send a fax to 1 844 530 - 3676.
3. Send an email to [AltFormatRequest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AltFormatRequest@cms.hhs.gov).
4. Send a letter to: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Offices of Hearings and Inquiries (OHI) 7500 Security Boulevard, Room S1-13-25 Baltimore, MD 21244-1850 Attn: CMS Alternate Format Team

**Note:** Your request for a CMS publication should include your name, phone number, mailing address where we should send the publications, and the publication title and product number, if available. Also include the format you need, like Braille, large print, audio CD, or a qualified reader.

● End of page

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) doesn't exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, or age. If you think you've been discriminated against or treated unfairly for any of these reasons, you can file a complaint with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights by:

Calling 1 800 368 - 1019. TTY users should call 1 800 537 - 7697.

Visiting [hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/complaints](https://hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/complaints).

Writing: Office for Civil Rights

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Room 509F, HHH Building

Washington, D.C. 20201

The information in this booklet was correct when it was printed. Changes may occur after printing. Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov), or call 1 800 633 - 4227 to get the most current information. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

## 5 – Table of Contents

**Introduction** \_\_\_ Page 7 - 8

**Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes  
At-a-Glance** \_\_\_ Page 9

**Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes  
Supplies** \_\_\_ Page 23

Blood sugar self-testing equipment &  
supplies \_\_\_ Page 23

Insulin pumps \_\_\_ Page 29

Therapeutic shoes or inserts \_\_\_ Page 30

Replacing lost or damaged durable medical equipment  
or supplies in a disaster or emergency \_\_\_ Page 32

**Section 3: Medicare Part D Diabetes  
Coverage** \_\_\_ Page 33

Insulin \_\_\_ Page 34

Anti-diabetic drugs \_\_\_ Page 34

Diabetes supplies \_\_\_ Page 35

For more information \_\_\_ Page 35

**(Continued on next page)**

## 6 – Table of Contents

### **Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services \_\_\_ Page 37**

Diabetes screenings \_\_\_ Page 38

Diabetes self-management training \_\_\_ Page 39 - 44

Medical nutrition therapy services \_\_\_ Page 45 - 46

Foot exams & treatment \_\_\_ Page 47

Hemoglobin A1c tests \_\_\_ Page 47

Glaucoma tests \_\_\_ Page 48

Flu and pneumococcal shots (vaccinations) \_\_\_ Page 48

“Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit \_\_\_ Page 48

Yearly “Wellness” visit \_\_\_ Page 49

Supplies & services that aren’t covered by Medicare \_\_\_ Page 50

### **Section 5: Helpful Tips & Resources \_\_\_ Page 51**

Tips to help control diabetes \_\_\_ Page 52 - 53

Phone numbers & websites \_\_\_ Page 54

## Introduction

**This booklet explains Medicare coverage of diabetes supplies and services in Original Medicare and with Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D).**

Original Medicare is fee-for-service coverage. The government usually pays your health care providers directly for your Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and/or Part B (Medical Insurance) benefits.

If you have other insurance that supplements Original Medicare, like a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy, it may pay some of the costs for some of the services described in this booklet. Contact your plan's benefits administrator for more information.

If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) or other Medicare health plan, your plan must give you at least the same coverage as Original Medicare, but it may have different rules. Your costs, rights, protections, and choices for where you get your care might be different if you're in one of these plans. You might also get extra benefits. Read your plan materials, or call your benefits administrator for more information about your benefits.

## 8 – Introduction

**It may be helpful to understand these terms as you read this booklet:**

**Coinsurance:** This is an amount you may be required to pay as your share of the cost for services after you pay any deductibles. Coinsurance is usually a percentage (for example, 20%).

**Copayment:** An amount you may be required to pay as your share of the cost for a medical service or supply, like a doctor's visit, hospital outpatient visit, or prescription drug. A copayment is usually a set amount, rather than a percentage. For example, you might pay \$10 or \$20 for a doctor's visit or prescription.

**Deductible:** This is the amount you must pay for health care or prescriptions, before Original Medicare, your prescription drug plan, or your other insurance begins to pay.

**Medicare-approved amount:** In Original Medicare, this is the amount a doctor or supplier that accepts assignment can be paid. Assignment is an agreement by your doctor, provider, or supplier to be paid directly by Medicare, to accept the payment amount Medicare approves for the service, and not to bill you for any more than the Medicare deductible and coinsurance. It may be less than the actual amount a doctor or supplier charges. Medicare pays part of this amount and you're responsible for the difference.



## **Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance**

The information on pages 10 - 22 provides a quick overview of some of the diabetes services and supplies covered by Medicare (Part B and Part D). Generally, Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) covers the services that may affect people who have diabetes. Part B also covers some preventive services for people who are at risk for diabetes. Medicare Part D (Medicare prescription drug coverage) also covers diabetes supplies used for injecting or inhaling insulin. You must have Part B to get services and supplies covered under Part B. You must be enrolled in a Medicare drug plan to get supplies covered under Part D.

### **Supply/service**

**Anti-diabetic drugs** See page 34.

### **What's covered**

Medicare Part D covers anti-diabetic drugs for maintaining blood sugar (glucose).

### **What you pay**

Coinsurance or copayment

Part D deductible may also apply

## 10 – Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**Diabetes screenings** See page 38.

### What's covered

Medicare Part B covers these screenings if your doctor determines you're at risk for diabetes. You may be eligible for up to 2 diabetes screenings each year.

### What you pay

No coinsurance, copayment, or Part B deductible for screenings

Generally, 20% of the Medicare-approved amount after the yearly Part B deductible for the doctor's visit

- End of page

## **11 – Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance**

### **Supply/service**

**Diabetes self-management training (DSMT)** See pages 39 – 44.

### **What's covered**

Part B covers diabetes self-management training (DSMT) services for people recently diagnosed with diabetes or at risk for complications from diabetes. DSMT will teach you how to manage your diabetes. For Medicare to cover DSMT services, your doctor or other health care provider must order it and the DSMT services must be provided by an accredited individual or entity, or program.

### **What you pay**

20% of the Medicare-approved amount after the yearly Part B deductible

## 12 — Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**Diabetes equipment & supplies** See page 23.

### What's covered

Part B covers home blood sugar (glucose) monitors and supplies used with the equipment, including blood sugar test strips, lancet devices, and lancets. There may be limits on how much or how often you get these supplies.

### What you pay

20% of the Medicare-approved amount after the yearly Part B deductible

- End of page

## 13 — Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**Diabetes supplies** See page 35.

### What's covered

Part D covers certain medical supplies to administer insulin (like syringes, needles, alcohol swabs, gauze, and inhaled insulin devices).

### What you pay

Coinsurance or copayment

Part D deductible may also apply

- End of page

## 14 — Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**Flu & pneumococcal shots** See page 48.

### What's covered

**Flu shot**—To help prevent influenza or flu virus. This is normally covered only once a flu season in the fall or winter. You need a flu shot for the current virus each year. Medicare Part B covers this shot.

**Pneumococcal shot**—To help prevent pneumococcal infections (like certain types of pneumonia). Part B covers this shot.

### What you pay

No coinsurance, copayment, or Part B deductible if your doctor or health care provider accepts assignment

- End of page

## 15 — Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**Foot exams & treatment** See page 47.

### What's covered

Part B covers a foot exam every 6 months for people with diabetic peripheral neuropathy and loss of protective sensation, as long as they haven't seen a foot care professional for another reason between visits.

### What you pay

20% of the Medicare-approved amount after the yearly Part B deductible

- End of page

## 16 — Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**Glaucoma tests** See page 48.

### What's covered

Part B covers this test once every 12 months for people at high risk for glaucoma. You're considered high risk for glaucoma if you have diabetes, or a family history of glaucoma, or are African-American and 50 or older, or are Hispanic and 65 or older. Tests must be done by an eye doctor legally authorized by the state.

### What you pay

20% of the Medicare-approved amount after the yearly Part B deductible

- End of page

## 17 — Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**Insulin** See page 34.

### What's covered

Medicare Part D covers insulin that isn't administered with an insulin pump.

### What you pay

Coinsurance or copayment

Part D deductible may also apply

- End of page

## 18 – Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**Insulin pumps** See page 29.

### What's covered

Medicare Part B covers external durable insulin pumps and the insulin that the device uses under durable medical equipment if you meet certain conditions.

### What you pay

20% of the Medicare-approved amount after the yearly Part B deductible

- End of page

## 19 – Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**Medical nutrition therapy (MNT) services** See page 45.

### What's covered

Part B may cover medical nutrition therapy (MNT) and certain related services if you have diabetes or kidney disease. Your doctor or other health care provider must refer you for the MNT services.

### What you pay

No copayment, coinsurance, or Part B deductible if your doctor or health care provider accepts assignment

- End of page

## 20 — Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**Therapeutic shoes or inserts** See page 30.

### What's covered

Part B covers therapeutic shoes or inserts for people with diabetes who have severe diabetic foot disease. The doctor who treats your diabetes must certify your need for therapeutic shoes or inserts. The shoes and inserts must be prescribed by a podiatrist or other qualified doctor and provided by a podiatrist, orthotist, prosthetist, or pedorthist.

### What you pay

20% of the Medicare-approved amount after the yearly Part B deductible

- End of page

## 21 — Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

**“Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit** See page 48.

### What’s covered

Part B covers a one-time review of your health, and education and counseling about preventive services, including certain screenings, shots, and referrals for other care, if needed.

**Note:** You must have the visit within the first 12 months you have Part B.

### What you pay

No copayment, coinsurance, or Part B deductible if your doctor or health care provider accepts assignment

- End of page

## 22 — Section 1: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes At-a-Glance

### Supply/service

Yearly “Wellness” visit See page 49.

### What’s covered

If you’ve already had Part B for longer than 12 months, you can get a yearly “Wellness” visit to develop or update a personalized prevention plan based on your current health and risk factors.

### What you pay

No copayment, coinsurance or Part B deductible if your doctor or health care provider accepts assignment

If you had a “Welcome to Medicare” visit, you’ll have to wait 12 months before you can get your first yearly “Wellness” visit.

- End of page



## **Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes Supplies**

This section provides information about Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) and its coverage of diabetes supplies. Medicare covers certain supplies if you have diabetes and you have Part B. These covered supplies include:

- Blood sugar self-testing equipment & supplies. See pages 23 – 28.
- Insulin pumps. See page 29.
- Therapeutic shoes or inserts. See pages 30 - 31.

### **Blood sugar self-testing equipment & supplies**

Blood sugar (also called blood glucose) self-testing equipment and supplies are covered as durable medical equipment for all people with Medicare Part B who have diabetes, even if you don't use insulin.

Self-testing supplies include:

- Blood sugar monitors
- Blood sugar test strips
- Lancet devices and lancets
- Glucose control solutions for checking the accuracy of testing equipment and test strips

## 24 — Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes Supplies

### Blood sugar self-testing equipment & supplies (continued)

Part B covers the same type of blood sugar testing supplies for people with diabetes whether or not they use insulin. However, the amount of supplies that are covered varies. If you use insulin, you may be able to get up to 300 test strips and 300 lancets every 3 months.

If you don't use insulin, you may be able to get 100 test strips and 100 lancets every 3 months.

If your doctor says it's medically necessary, **Medicare will allow you to get additional test strips and lancets.** "Medically necessary" means that services or supplies are needed for the diagnosis or treatment of your medical condition and meet accepted standards of medical practice. You may need to keep a record that shows how often you're actually testing yourself.

If you have questions about diabetes supplies, call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

You'll need to use a Medicare contract supplier for Medicare to pay for diabetic testing supplies if you choose to have the supplies delivered to your home. For more information about this program, visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) or [Medicare.gov/publications](https://www.Medicare.gov/publications) to view the booklet "Your Guide to Medicare's Durable Medical Equipment."

## **25 — Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes Supplies**

### **What do I need from my doctor to get these covered supplies?**

Medicare will only cover your blood sugar self-testing equipment and supplies if you get a prescription from your doctor. The prescription should include:

- Whether you have diabetes.
  - What kind of blood sugar monitor you need and why you need it. (If you need a special monitor because of vision problems, your doctor must explain that.)
  - Whether you use insulin.
  - How often you should test your blood sugar.
  - How many test strips and lancets you need for one month.
- 
- End of page

## 26 — Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes Supplies

### Blood sugar self-testing equipment & supplies (continued)

#### Where can I get these supplies?

- You can order and pick up your supplies at your pharmacy.
- You can order your supplies from a medical equipment supplier. Generally, a “supplier” is any company, person, or agency that gives you a medical item or service, except when you’re an inpatient in a hospital or skilled nursing facility. If you get your supplies this way, you must place the order yourself. You’ll need a prescription from your doctor to place your order, but your doctor can’t order the supplies for you.

#### Keep this in mind:

- You must ask for refills for your supplies.
- You need a new prescription from your doctor for your lancets and test strips every 12 months.

## 27 — Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes Supplies

**Note:** Medicare won't pay for any supplies you didn't ask for, or for any supplies that were sent to you automatically from suppliers, including blood sugar monitors, test strips, and lancets. If you're getting supplies sent to you automatically, are getting advertisements that are misleading, or suspect fraud relating to your diabetes supplies, call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

You must get supplies from a pharmacy or supplier that's enrolled in Medicare. If you go to a pharmacy or supplier that isn't enrolled in Medicare, Medicare won't pay.

**You'll have to pay the entire bill for any supplies from non-enrolled pharmacies or non-enrolled suppliers.**

### **How are claims paid?**

All Medicare-enrolled pharmacies and suppliers must submit claims for blood sugar (glucose) monitors, test strips, and other items covered under durable medical equipment. You can't submit a claim for a blood sugar monitor or test strips yourself.

You should also make sure that the pharmacy or supplier accepts assignment for Medicare-covered supplies.

**This could save you money.** If the pharmacy or supplier accepts assignment, Medicare will pay the pharmacy or supplier directly.

## 28 — Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes Supplies

### Blood sugar self-testing equipment & supplies (continued)

You pay no more than your coinsurance amount when you get your supply from a pharmacy or supplier for assigned claims. If your pharmacy or supplier **doesn't** accept assignment, charges may be higher, and you may pay more. You may also have to pay the entire charge at the time of service, and wait for Medicare to send you its share of the cost.

#### **What supplier or pharmacy should I use?**

Before you get a supply it's important to ask the supplier or pharmacy these questions:

- Are you enrolled in Medicare?
- Do you accept assignment?

If the answer to either of these 2 questions is “no,” you should call another supplier or pharmacy in your area who answers “yes” to be sure your purchase is covered by Medicare and to save you money. Ask them the same questions.

If you can't find a supplier or pharmacy in your area that's enrolled in Medicare and accepts assignment, you may want to order your supplies through the mail. This may save you money.

## 29 — Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes Supplies

### Insulin pumps

Insulin pumps worn outside the body (external), including the insulin used with the pump, may be covered for some people with Medicare Part B who have diabetes and who meet certain conditions. Insulin pumps are considered durable medical equipment. “Durable medical equipment” is certain medical equipment ordered by your doctor for use in the home.

#### How do I get an insulin pump?

If you need to use an insulin pump, your doctor will prescribe it for you.

**Note:** In Original Medicare, you pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount after the yearly Part B deductible. Medicare will pay 80% of the cost of the insulin and the insulin pump. For more information about durable medical equipment and diabetes supplies, visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov), or call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

● End of page

## 30 — Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes Supplies

### Blood sugar self-testing equipment & supplies (continued)

#### Therapeutic shoes or inserts

If you have Part B, have diabetes, and meet certain conditions (page 31), Medicare will cover therapeutic shoes if you need them.

The types of shoes that are covered each year include **one** of these:

- One pair of depth-inlay shoes and 3 pairs of inserts
- One pair of custom-molded shoes (including inserts) if you can't wear depth-inlay shoes because of a foot deformity, and 2 additional pairs of inserts

**Note:** In certain cases, Medicare may also cover separate inserts or shoe modifications instead of inserts.

- End of page

## **31 — Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes Supplies**

### **How do I get therapeutic shoes?**

For Medicare to pay for your therapeutic shoes, the doctor treating your diabetes must certify that you meet these 3 conditions:

1. You have diabetes.
2. You have at least one of these conditions in one or both feet:
  - Partial or complete foot amputation
  - Past foot ulcers
  - Calluses that could lead to foot ulcers
  - Nerve damage because of diabetes with signs of problems with calluses
  - Poor circulation
  - A deformed foot
3. You're being treated under a comprehensive diabetes care plan and need therapeutic shoes and/or inserts because of diabetes.

Medicare also requires:

- A podiatrist or other qualified doctor prescribes the shoes.
- A doctor or other qualified individual like a pedorthist, orthotist, or prosthetist fits and provides the shoes

## **32 — Section 2: Medicare Part B-Covered Diabetes Supplies**

### **Replacing lost or damaged durable medical equipment or supplies in a disaster or emergency**

#### **I have Original Medicare**

If Original Medicare already paid for durable medical equipment (DME) (like a wheelchair or walker) or supplies (like diabetic supplies) damaged or lost due to an emergency or disaster:

- In certain cases, Medicare will cover the cost to repair or replace your equipment or supplies.
- Generally, Medicare will also cover the cost of rentals for items (like wheelchairs) during the time your equipment is being repaired.

Call 1 800 633 - 4227 to get more information about how to replace your equipment or supplies. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

#### **I have a Medicare Advantage Plan or other Medicare health plan**

Contact your plan directly to find out how it replaces DME or supplies damaged or lost in an emergency or disaster.



### **Section 3: Medicare Part D Diabetes Coverage**

This section provides information about Medicare Part D (Medicare prescription drug coverage) for people with Medicare who have or are at risk for diabetes.

To get Medicare drug coverage, you must join a Medicare drug plan. For information about Medicare drug coverage, visit or call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

These diabetes drugs and supplies are covered under Medicare drug plans (on page 34):

- Insulin.
  - Anti-diabetic drugs.
  - Certain diabetes supplies.
- 
- End of page

## 34 — Section 3: Medicare Part D Diabetes Coverage

### Insulin

Medicare drug plans cover injectable insulin not used with an insulin infusion pump and inhaled insulin.

### Anti-diabetic drugs

Blood sugar (glucose) that isn't controlled by insulin is maintained by anti-diabetic drugs. Medicare drug plans can cover anti-diabetic drugs like:

- Sulfonylureas (like Glipizide, and Glyburide)
- Biguanides (like metformin)
- Thiazolidinediones, like Actos® (Pioglitazone), Avandia® (Rosiglitazone), and Rezulin® (Troglitazone)
- Meglitinides, which are a class of anti-diabetic drug including Starlix® (Nateglinide) and Prandin® (Repaglinide)
- Alpha glucosidase inhibitors (like Precose®)

## 35 – Section 3: Medicare Part D Diabetes Coverage

### Diabetes supplies

Supplies used when you inject or inhale insulin may be covered for people with Medicare Part D who have diabetes. These medical supplies include:

- Syringes
- Needles
- Alcohol swabs
- Gauze
- Inhaled insulin devices

### For more information

To get more information about Medicare drug coverage, you can:

- Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov).
- Call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). To get their phone number, visit [shiptacenter.org](https://www.shiptacenter.org), or call 1 800 633 - 4227.





## **Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services**

For people with diabetes, Medicare covers certain services. In general, your doctor must write an order or referral for you to get these services. These services include:

- Diabetes screenings. See page 38.
- Diabetes self-management training (DSMT). See pages 39 – 44.
- Medical nutrition therapy services (MNT). See page 45.
- Hemoglobin A1c tests. See page 47.

You can get some Medicare-covered services without a written order or referral. These services include:

- Foot exams & treatment. See page 47.
- Glaucoma tests. See page 48.
- Flu & pneumococcal shots. See page 48.
- Preventive visits (“Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit and Yearly “Wellness” visit). See pages 48 – 49.

## 38 – Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### Diabetes screenings

Medicare pays for diabetes screening tests if you're at risk for diabetes. These tests are used to detect diabetes early. You may be at risk for diabetes if you have:

- High blood pressure
- Dyslipidemia (history of abnormal cholesterol and triglyceride levels)
- Obesity (with certain conditions)
- Impaired glucose (blood sugar) tolerance
- High fasting glucose (blood sugar)

Medicare may pay for up to 2 diabetes screening tests in a 12-month period. After the initial diabetes screening test, your doctor will determine if you need a second test. Medicare covers these diabetes screening tests:

- Fasting blood sugar tests
- Other tests approved by Medicare as appropriate

If you think you may be at risk for diabetes, talk with your doctor to see if you can get these tests.

## 39 — Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### Diabetes self-management training

Diabetes self-management training (DSMT) helps you learn how to successfully manage your diabetes. Your doctor or other health care provider must prescribe this training for Medicare to cover it.

You can get diabetes self-management training if you meet one of these conditions:

- You were diagnosed with diabetes.
- You changed from taking no diabetes medication to taking diabetes medication, or from oral diabetes medication to insulin.
- You have been diagnosed with diabetes and are at risk for complications (see below).

Your doctor or other health care provider may consider you at increased risk if any of these apply to you:

- You have problems controlling your blood sugar, have been treated in an emergency room, or have stayed overnight in a hospital because of your diabetes.
- You've been diagnosed with eye disease related to diabetes.

## 40 – Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### Diabetes self-management training (continued)

- You have a lack of feeling in your feet or some other foot problems, like ulcers, deformities, or have had an amputation.
- You've been diagnosed with kidney disease related to diabetes.

Your doctor or other health care provider will usually give you information about where to get DSMT. You must get this training from an approved DSMT individual or program as part of a plan of care prepared by your doctor or other health care provider. These DSMT programs and individuals are accredited by the American Diabetes Association or the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

### How much training is covered?

DSMT classes are taught by health care professionals who have special training in diabetes education. You're covered to get up to 10 hours of initial training and 2 hours of follow-up training if you need it.

The initial training must be completed no more than 12 months from the time you start it. The initial training includes one hour of training on an individual, one-on-one basis. The other 9 hours of initial training are usually given in a group setting.

## 41 — Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

**Important:** Your doctor or other health care professional may prescribe up to 10 hours of the initial training to be given to you on a one-to-one basis rather than in a group when it's appropriate. Some indications for one-on-one training include if you have low-vision, a hearing impairment, a language or other communication difficulty, or have cognition limitations. In addition, if no groups are available within 2 months of the date of the order, one-on-one training is also covered.

Up to 2 hours of follow-up training are covered each year after the year you receive the initial training if you need it. To be eligible for the follow-up training, you must get a written order from your doctor or other health care professional. The follow-up training can be in a group or one-on-one sessions. Remember, your doctor or other health care professional must prescribe this follow-up training each year for Medicare to cover it.

● End of page

## 42 – Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### Diabetes self-management training (continued)

**Note:** Diabetes self-management training is available in many Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide primary health services and qualified preventive services in medically underserved rural and urban areas. Some types of FQHCs are Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless Programs, Public Housing Primary Care Centers, and outpatient health programs/facilities operated by a tribe or tribal organization or by an urban Indian organization. No Part B deductible is applied. For more information about FQHCs, visit [cms.hhs.gov/center/fqhc.asp](https://cms.hhs.gov/center/fqhc.asp), or call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

- End of page

## 43 – Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

**Telehealth:** If you're in a rural area, you may be able to get DSMT services from a practitioner, like a Registered Dietitian, in a different location through Telehealth. Telehealth services are only available to patients at certain healthcare locations in rural areas, so check with your DSMT professional to see if some of your DSMT services can be provided via Telehealth. For more information about Telehealth services, call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

### **What will I learn in this training?**

Through DSMT, you'll learn how to successfully manage your diabetes. This includes information on self-care and lifestyle changes. The first DSMT session is an individual assessment to help the instructors better understand your needs.

- End of page

## 44 – Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### Diabetes self-management training (continued)

Classroom training will cover topics like these:

- General information about diabetes, the benefits of blood sugar control, and the risks of poor blood sugar control
- Nutrition and how to manage your diet
- Options to manage and improve blood sugar control
- Exercise and why it's important to your health
- How to take your medications properly
- Blood sugar testing and how to use the information to improve your diabetes control
- How to prevent, recognize, and treat acute and chronic complications from your diabetes
- Foot, skin, and dental care
- How diet, exercise, and medication affect blood sugar
- Behavior changes, goal setting, risk reduction, and problem solving
- How to adjust emotionally to having diabetes
- Family involvement and support
- The use of the health care system and community resources

## 45 – Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### Medical nutrition therapy (MNT) services

In addition to diabetes self-management training, medical nutrition therapy services are also covered for people with diabetes or renal disease. To be eligible for this service, your fasting blood sugar has to meet certain criteria. Also, your doctor or other health care provider must prescribe these services for you.

A registered dietitian or certain nutrition professionals can give these services:

- An initial nutrition and lifestyle assessment
- Nutrition counseling (what foods to eat and how to follow an individualized diabetic meal plan)
- How to manage lifestyle factors that affect your diabetes
- Follow-up visits to check on your progress in managing your diet

Remember, your doctor or other health care provider must prescribe medical nutrition therapy services each year for Medicare to pay for the MNT service.

## 46 – Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### Medical nutrition therapy (MNT) services (continued)

**Note:** Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) is available in many Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide primary health services and qualified preventive services in medically underserved rural and urban areas. Some types of FQHCs are Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless Programs, Public Housing Primary Care Centers, and outpatient health programs/facilities operated by a tribe or tribal organization or by an urban Indian organization. No Part B deductible or coinsurance is applied. For more information about FQHCs, visit [cms.hhs.gov/center/fqhc.asp](https://cms.hhs.gov/center/fqhc.asp), or call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

**Telehealth:** If you're in a rural area, a registered dietitian or other nutritional professional in a different location may be able to provide MNT to you through Telehealth. Telehealth services are only available to patients at certain healthcare locations in rural areas, so check with your MNT provider to see if some of your MNT services can be provided via Telehealth.

## 47 — Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### Foot exams & treatment

If you have diabetes-related nerve damage in either of your feet, Medicare will cover one foot exam every 6 months by a podiatrist or other foot care specialist, unless you've seen a foot care specialist for some other foot problem during the past 6 months. Medicare may cover more frequent visits if you've had a non-traumatic (not because of an injury) amputation of all or part of your foot or your feet have changed in appearance which may indicate you have serious foot disease. Remember, you should be under the care of your primary care doctor or diabetes specialist when getting foot care.

### Hemoglobin A1c tests

A hemoglobin A1c test is a lab test that measures how well your blood sugar has been controlled over the past 3 months. If you have diabetes, this test is covered if it's ordered by your doctor.

For more information, call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

## 48 — Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### **Glaucoma tests**

Medicare Part B will pay for you to have your eyes checked for glaucoma once every 12 months if you're at risk. This test must be done or supervised by an eye doctor who's legally allowed to give this service in your state.

### **Flu and pneumococcal shots (vaccinations)**

Part B will pay for you to get a flu shot generally once a flu season in the fall or winter. Part B will also pay for a pneumococcal shot to prevent pneumococcal infections (like certain types of pneumonia). Part B covers a different second pneumococcal shot 11 months after you get the first shot. Talk with your doctor or other health care provider to see if you need these shots.

### **“Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit**

Part B covers a one-time review of your health, and education and counseling about preventive services. This includes information about certain screenings, shots, and referrals for other care if needed. The “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit is a good opportunity to talk with your doctor about the preventive services you may need, like diabetes screening tests.

**Note:** Medicare will cover this visit if you get it within the first 12 months you have Part B.

## 49 – Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### Yearly “Wellness” visit

If you’ve had Medicare Part B for longer than 12 months, you can get a yearly “Wellness” visit to develop or update a personalized prevention plan based on your current health and risk factors. This includes:

- A review of medical and family history
  - A list of current providers and prescription drugs
  - Your height, weight, blood pressure, and other routine measurements
  - A screening schedule for appropriate preventive services
  - A list of risk factors and treatment options for you
- 
- End of page

## 50 — Section 4: Medicare-Covered Diabetes Services

### Supplies & services that aren't covered by Medicare

Original Medicare and Medicare drug plans don't cover everything. For example, these supplies and services aren't covered:

- Eyeglasses and exams for glasses (called refraction), except after cataract surgery
- Orthopedic shoes (shoes for people whose feet are impaired, but intact)
- Cosmetic surgery
  
- End of page



## Section 5: Helpful Tips & Resources

More information is available to help you make health care choices and decisions that meet your needs. You can order booklets at no cost to you, and look at information on the Internet. If you don't have a computer, your local library or senior center may be able to help you find information.

For more information about diabetes, visit [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov) or call 1 800 633 - 4227. TTY users should call 1 877 486 - 2048.

- End of page

## 52 — Section 5: Helpful Tips & Resources

### Tips to help control diabetes

You can do many things to control your diabetes. Here are some helpful tips that can help you stay healthy:

#### **Eat right**

- Talk with your doctor about what you eat, how much you eat, and when you eat. Your doctor, diabetes educator, or other health care provider can develop a healthy eating plan that's right for you.
- Talk with your doctor about how much you should weigh. Your doctor can talk to you about the different ways to help you reach your weight goal.

#### **Take medicine as directed**

- Take your medicines as directed. Talk with your doctor if you have any problems.

#### **Exercise**

- Be active for a total of 30 minutes most days. Talk with your doctor about which activities can help you stay active.

## 53 — Section 5: Helpful Tips & Resources

### Check these things

- Check your blood sugar (glucose) as often as your doctor tells you. You should record this information in a record book. Show your records to your doctor.
- Check your feet for cuts, blisters, sores, swelling, redness, or sore toenails. It's very important to keep your feet healthy to prevent serious foot problems.
- Frequently check your blood pressure.
- Have your doctor check your cholesterol.
- If you smoke, you should talk with your doctor about how you can quit. Medicare will cover smoking cessation (counseling to stop smoking) if ordered by your doctor.

Using these tips can help you manage your diabetes. You should talk with your doctor, diabetes educator, or other health care provider about your treatment, the tests you should get, and what you can do to help control your diabetes. They're there to help you. You should also talk with your doctor about your treatment options. You and your doctor can decide what's best for you. You can also find out more by contacting the organizations on the next 2 pages.

## 54 — Section 5: Helpful Tips & Resources

### Phone numbers & websites

#### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

[www.fda.gov/forpatients/illness/diabetes](http://www.fda.gov/forpatients/illness/diabetes)

1 800 232 - 4636

(Inquiries and Publications)

CDC Division of Diabetes Translation

1600 Clifton Road

Atlanta, Georgia 30333

#### **Food and Drug Administration (FDA), HHS**

[fda.gov/diabetes](http://fda.gov/diabetes)

#### **Healthfinder**

[healthfinder.gov](http://healthfinder.gov)

#### **Indian Health Service**

[www.ihs.gov/medicalprograms/diabetes](http://www.ihs.gov/medicalprograms/diabetes)

1 505 248 - 4182

Division of Diabetes Treatment & Prevention

5300 Homestead Road, NE

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

## **55 — Section 5: Helpful Tips & Resources**

### **National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP)**

ndep.nih.gov  
1 888 693 - 6337

National Diabetes Education Program  
One Diabetes Way  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814 - 9692

### **National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), DHHS**

[www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes](http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes)

[www.niddk.nih.gov/health/diabetes/ndic.htm](http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health/diabetes/ndic.htm) (Clearinghouse)  
1 800 860 - 8747 (Clearinghouse)

National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse  
1 Information Way  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892 - 3560

- End of page

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244 - 1850

---

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

CMS Product No. 11022 - LE  
Revised September 2016

**Medicare's Coverage of Diabetes Supplies & Services**

- Medicare.gov
- 1 800 633 - 4227
- TTY: 1 877 486 - 2048

¿Necesita usted una copia en español?  
Llame GRATIS al 1 800 633 - 4227.

