

Diabetes: Medicare Coverage for Diabetes Services & Supplies**Who is eligible for Medicare reimbursement for diabetes services and supplies?**

Individuals who have been diagnosed with diabetes by their physician and subscribe to Medicare Part B may be eligible for reimbursement for certain services and supplies to manage their diabetes.

The following services are covered by Medicare Part B:

✓ **Diabetes screening tests** for individuals at risk for diabetes or diagnosed with pre-diabetes. This screening includes a fasting blood glucose test and a post-glucose challenge test. Those considered at risk for diabetes must have one of the following risk factors:

- Hypertension
- Dyslipidemia
- Obesity
- Previous identified elevated impaired fasting glucose or glucose tolerance

✓ **Diabetes self-management training** provided through a program recognized by the American Diabetes Association. The program includes:

- Instructions in self-management of blood glucose

- Education about diet and exercise
- An insulin treatment plan designed specifically for the patient who is insulin-dependent
- Motivation to use the self-management skills

Eligible individuals may receive 10 hours of training the first year, then 2 hours of follow-up training for following years when ordered by a physician.

✓ **Medical nutrition therapy** provided by a dietitian who meets certain Medicare qualification requirements. Nutrition therapy includes:

- An initial nutrition and lifestyle assessment
- Nutrition counseling
- Information regarding diet management
- Follow-up sessions to monitor progress.

Eligible individuals may receive 3 hours of nutrition therapy the first year, then 2 hours of therapy in subsequent years.

For all of these services, the individual must have a physician referral that documents the necessity for the services.

The following diabetes supplies are covered by Medicare Part B:

- ✓ Glucose meter every 5 years
- ✓ Lancing device every 6 months
- ✓ Test strips and lancets:
 - 100 strips per month if using insulin
 - 100 strips every 3 months if not using insulin
 - Additional test strips and lancets will be covered if the physician provides a written order and medical necessity for more testing supplies.

How much does Medicare Part B cover for services and supplies?

Medicare benefit coverage begins each year after the annual deductible is met.

For diabetes services (i.e. Diabetes Self-Management Training), Medicare Part B covers 80% of the cost after the individual meets their annual deductible fee.

These services are provided "on assignment," meaning that the fee is determined by Medicare. If supplemental insurance is available, most or all of the remaining 20% is usually covered.

For diabetes supplies, Medicare Part B reimburses 80% of the Medicare Allowed Amount or 80% of the retail price of the product, whichever is lower.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). Diabetes-Related Services. Retrieved @www.cms.hhs.gov

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