

February 8, 2021

Gift Tee
Director, Practitioner Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Re: Requested Waiver of In-Person Visit Requirement for Insulin Pump Coverage

Dear Director Tee,

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, the world's largest professional organization of endocrinologists, I am writing to ask that CMS waive the in-person visit requirement for Medicare coverage of insulin pumps and supplies. Founded in 1916, the Society represents approximately 18,000 physicians and scientists engaged in the treatment and research of all endocrine disorders, including diabetes. Our members are leaders in the treatment of diabetes and have authored Society clinical practice guidelines in diabetes technology, diabetes and pregnancy, and treatment of diabetes in older adults. Many of the patients our members treat are Medicare beneficiaries.

The Endocrine Society appreciates the efforts taken by CMS to expand telehealth access during the COVID-19 pandemic using the authority granted by the public health emergency declaration. These flexibilities have allowed people with diabetes and other chronic conditions to continue receiving medical care while avoiding unnecessary exposure to COVID-19. We respectfully request that you consider waiving the in-person visit requirements pertaining to coverage of insulin pumps and supplies for the duration of the public health emergency.

Currently, to receive Medicare coverage of insulin pumps and insulin pump supplies CMS requires that beneficiaries be seen and evaluated in-person by the treating physician at least once every three months. The Society requests that CMS waive this in-person visit requirement during the public health emergency. Our members treat patients with diabetes who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 infection or may have to travel significant distances to see their endocrinologist. Requiring a patient to visit their physician in-person every three months is burdensome during this current crisis. We ask you to waive the in-person visit requirement for the duration of the PHE and instead allow the visits to occur by telehealth. This would limit unnecessary exposure to COVID-19 for beneficiaries with diabetes who use an insulin pump.



Thank you for your consideration of this request and your leadership during this critical time. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Rob Goldsmith, Director of Advocacy and Policy, at rgoldsmith@endocrine.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Hammer".

Gary D. Hammer, MD, PhD
President
Endocrine Society