

# Care and Medication Access

Diabetes is the most expensive chronic disease in the U.S. Currently, \$1 out of every \$4 in U.S. health care is spent on caring for people living with diabetes. People with diabetes often face economic challenges associated with the cost of medications, technology, and treatments they need to remain healthy. Without proper management, diabetes can lead to severe complications including heart disease, kidney failure, amputation, and even death. Access to health care coverage and affordable treatments allows individuals living with prediabetes or diabetes to more effectively manage their care and ultimately leads to less health care spending and improved quality of life.

## The American Diabetes Association® (ADA) urges Congress to ensure people have access to care and treatments.

### Affordable Insulin

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- Spending on insulin has tripled in the past 10 years, increasing from \$8 billion in 2012 to \$22.3 billion in 2022.<sup>1</sup> One in six Americans with diabetes reports rationing their insulin to pay for other life essentials like rent, utilities, day care, and food.
  - Since 2019, important bipartisan and nationwide progress has been made toward insulin affordability. Thirty jurisdictions have passed a costing-sharing limit for state-regulated health plans, implemented a successful Medicare pilot program, resulting in Congress setting a costing-sharing limit for insulin of \$35 for Medicare beneficiaries.
  - **The ADA supports extending the Medicare Part D cost-sharing limit to commercial insurance plans** so people living with diabetes on private insurance can access affordable insulin. We urge Congress to consider uninsured patients as part of this approach, as they would not benefit from a commercial cost-sharing limit for insulin. With the Medicaid eligibility and cost-sharing changes passed by Congress as part of H.R. 1, ensuring insulin access for people without insurance is even more important.

### Insurance Access

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- Access to health care coverage is vital for people living with diabetes. Research shows that adults with diabetes with health insurance have better blood glucose (blood sugar) and cholesterol management than those without insurance. People with well-managed diabetes avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits more often than those without care.
  - Almost 24% of people with diabetes rely on Medicaid to provide access to diabetes care, medications, and technology.
  - The expanded Medicaid work requirements recently passed by Congress will put individuals living with diabetes, particularly those with comorbidities and complications, at significant risk of losing coverage.
  - We ask that **any implementation guidance considers these comorbidities and complications** that may prevent people living with diabetes from being able to meet new work requirements.

1. The ADA's Economic Costs of Diabetes in the US in 2022: [diabetes.org/newsroom/press-releases/new-american-diabetes-association-report-finds-annual-costs-diabetes-be](https://diabetes.org/newsroom/press-releases/new-american-diabetes-association-report-finds-annual-costs-diabetes-be)