The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:


We are pleased to inform you that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has already evaluated and updated the TRICARE policy on CGMS. The DHA published an update to the TRICARE Policy Manual on January 22, 2020 (effective January 1, 2020), expanding coverage of CGMS to all diabetics who meet the criteria outlined therein. This benefit is for TRICARE beneficiaries with uncontrolled diabetes. DHA also expanded coverage to include therapeutic CGMS, where previously only adjunctive devices had been covered.

Thank you for your continued support of the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families. I am sending identical letters to the other congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,

Matthew P. Donovan

Enclosure:  
As stated
The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510  

Dear Senator Reed:


    We are pleased to inform you that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has already evaluated and updated the TRICARE policy on CGMS. The DHA published an update to the TRICARE Policy Manual on January 22, 2020 (effective January 1, 2020), expanding coverage of CGMS to all diabetics who meet the criteria outlined therein. This benefit is for TRICARE beneficiaries with uncontrolled diabetes. DHA also expanded coverage to include therapeutic CGMS, where previously only adjunctive devices had been covered.

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Sincerely,

Matthew P. Donovan  

Enclosure:  
As stated
The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515  

Dear Mr. Chairman:


We are pleased to inform you that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has already evaluated and updated the TRICARE policy on CGMS. The DHA published an update to the TRICARE Policy Manual on January 22, 2020 (effective January 1, 2020), expanding coverage of CGMS to all diabetics who meet the criteria outlined therein. This benefit is for TRICARE beneficiaries with uncontrolled diabetes. DHA also expanded coverage to include therapeutic CGMS, where previously only adjunctive devices had been covered.

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Sincerely,

Matthew P. Donovan

Enclosure:  
As stated
The Honorable William M. “Mac” Thornberry  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thornberry:


We are pleased to inform you that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has already evaluated and updated the TRICARE policy on CGMS. The DHA published an update to the TRICARE Policy Manual on January 22, 2020 (effective January 1, 2020), expanding coverage of CGMS to all diabetics who meet the criteria outlined therein. This benefit is for TRICARE beneficiaries with uncontrolled diabetes. DHA also expanded coverage to include therapeutic CGMS, where previously only adjunctive devices had been covered.

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Sincerely,

Matthew P. Donovan

Enclosure:  
As stated
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  

Dear Mr. Chairman:


We are pleased to inform you that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has already evaluated and updated the TRICARE policy on CGMS. The DHA published an update to the TRICARE Policy Manual on January 22, 2020 (effective January 1, 2020), expanding coverage of CGMS to all diabetics who meet the criteria outlined therein. This benefit is for TRICARE beneficiaries with uncontrolled diabetes. DHA also expanded coverage to include therapeutic CGMS, where previously only adjunctive devices had been covered.

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Sincerely,

Matthew P. Donovan

Enclosure:
As stated
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510

Dear Senator Leahy:


We are pleased to inform you that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has already evaluated and updated the TRICARE policy on CGMS. The DHA published an update to the TRICARE Policy Manual on January 22, 2020 (effective January 1, 2020), expanding coverage of CGMS to all diabetics who meet the criteria outlined therein. This benefit is for TRICARE beneficiaries with uncontrolled diabetes. DHA also expanded coverage to include therapeutic CGMS, where previously only adjunctive devices had been covered.

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Sincerely,

Matthew P. Donovan

Enclosure:
As stated
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:


We are pleased to inform you that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has already evaluated and updated the TRICARE policy on CGMS. The DHA published an update to the TRICARE Policy Manual on January 22, 2020 (effective January 1, 2020), expanding coverage of CGMS to all diabetics who meet the criteria outlined therein. This benefit is for TRICARE beneficiaries with uncontrolled diabetes. DHA also expanded coverage to include therapeutic CGMS, where previously only adjunctive devices had been covered.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Matthew P. Donovan

Enclosure:  
As stated
The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Granger:


We are pleased to inform you that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has already evaluated and updated the TRICARE policy on CGMS. The DHA published an update to the TRICARE Policy Manual on January 22, 2020 (effective January 1, 2020), expanding coverage of CGMS to all diabetics who meet the criteria outlined therein. This benefit is for TRICARE beneficiaries with uncontrolled diabetes. DHA also expanded coverage to include therapeutic CGMS, where previously only adjunctive devices had been covered.

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Sincerely,

Matthew P. Donovan

Enclosure:
As stated

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense (DoD) is approximately $3,000.00. This includes $0.00 for expenses and $3,000.00 in DoD labor.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1) Executive Summary: ................................................................. 3
2) Background: ........................................................................... 3
3) Discussion: ........................................................................... 3
4) Conclusions: .......................................................................... 4
1) Executive Summary:

This report summarizes the Department of Defense’s (DoD) efforts to add coverage for Continuous Glucose Monitor Systems (CGMS) for diabetic beneficiaries under TRICARE consistent with Senate Report 116-48, page 213, accompanying S.1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. The Defense Health Agency (DHA) initiated a review of coverage of CGMS in 2019 and subsequently made revisions to the TRICARE policy to expand coverage of these devices. TRICARE expanded coverage to both therapeutic and adjunctive devices (previously only adjunctive devices were covered), and modernized the indications for which CGMS may be cost-shared. CGMS aid patients and physicians in controlling blood glucose levels in diabetics. DHA published a change to the TRICARE Policy Manual (TPM) on January 22, 2020, adding this benefit to the TRICARE program. The effective date for coverage was January 1, 2020.

2) Background:

When TRICARE first added coverage of CGMS, TRICARE restricted coverage of CGMS to type I diabetics who met a criteria of uncontrolled diabetes. In 2019, the Director, DHA approved a decision paper to expand coverage of CGMS to therapeutic devices and to modernize the indications for which CGMS may be cost shared to ensure they align with best clinical practice. DHA estimates that the cost of adding CGMS for type II diabetes will be approximately $8 million over 5 years. This estimate does not take into consideration the decrease in health care expenditures that may result from improved glycemic control.

In accordance with the approval of the decision paper, a TRICARE manual change was developed and approved. DHA published a change to the TPM on January 22, 2020, adding this benefit to the TRICARE program. The effective date for coverage was as of January 1, 2020.

3) Discussion:

Diabetics using tools like CGMS have fewer complications and better control over their disease. Maintaining glucose levels that are neither too high nor too low is the goal of diabetes management. Poorly controlled diabetes, regardless of the type (e.g., Type 1 or Type 2), can result in significant morbidity, to include weakness and dizziness, tremors, palpitations, delirium, confusion, seizures, coma, increased thirst, increased urination, weight loss, lethargy, and secondary conditions such as atherosclerosis, vision problems or blindness, kidney-related complications, and nerve damage.

CGMS are used to help diabetics manage their blood glucose levels, prevent complications, decrease the burden of living with diabetes, and improve their quality of life. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 recommends that most patients using intensive insulin regimes, which they define as “multiple daily injections or insulin pump therapy,” monitor their glucose levels prior to meals and snacks, at bedtime, and at other times when they suspect low
glucose levels. Glucose levels can be checked with blood from a finger stick, often referred to as self-monitoring of blood glucose or with a CGMS.

As of January 1, 2020, TRICARE expanded coverage of CGMS to include all types of diabetes when the patient meets certain criteria outlined in the TPM. The basic criteria for diabetics to meet are that the patient must complete a comprehensive diabetic education program; the patient must need at least three insulin injections daily; and the patient has documented blood glucose self-testing on average of at least four times per day prior to the initiation of CGMS therapy. Furthermore, the CGMS must be used in accordance with Food and Drug Administration guidelines, and the beneficiary must be diagnosed with diabetes and be able to use the device safely and effectively as prescribed.

Further, the policy clarifies when replacements of CGMS may be allowed, to include when the device is malfunctioning and cannot be repaired, nor is under warranty, as well as require a recent (within 6 months) evaluation by a TRICARE-authorized provider that supports ongoing use of a CGMS.

4) Conclusion: