



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

APR - 9 2020

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report is in response to Senate Report 116-48, page 213, accompanying S. 1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, that requests a report on TRICARE coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitor Systems (CGMS).

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,

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Matthew P. Donovan

Enclosure:
As stated



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

Dear Senator Reed:

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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APR - 9 2020

The Honorable William M. "Mac" Thornberry
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thornberry:

The enclosed report is in response to Senate Report 116-48, page 213, accompanying S. 1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, that requests a report on TRICARE coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitor Systems (CGMS).

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APR - 9 2020

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report is in response to Senate Report 116-48, page 213, accompanying S. 1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, that requests a report on TRICARE coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitor Systems (CGMS).

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APR - 9 2020

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

Dear Senator Leahy:

The enclosed report is in response to Senate Report 116-48, page 213, accompanying S. 1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, that requests a report on TRICARE coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitor Systems (CGMS).

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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APR - 9 2020

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

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

The enclosed report is in response to Senate Report 116-48, page 213, accompanying S. 1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, that requests a report on TRICARE coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitor Systems (CGMS).

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

Dear Representative Granger:

The enclosed report is in response to Senate Report 116-48, page 213, accompanying S. 1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, that requests a report on TRICARE coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitor Systems (CGMS).

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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Report to Armed Services Committees



Senate Report 116-48, Page 213, Accompanying S. 1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 “TRICARE Coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitors”

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

<u>1) Executive Summary:</u>	3
<u>2) Background:</u>	3
<u>3) Discussion:</u>	3
<u>4) Conclusions:</u>	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:

Expanded coverage of CGMS for diabetic beneficiaries was effective as of January 1, 2020 and published in the TRICARE Policy Manual on January 22, 2020. Providing CGMS to diabetic beneficiaries of TRICARE will aid in diabetic complication costs and diabetic care.