

ADA News and Meetings

ADA Calls for Expanded Medicare Reimbursement for Outpatient Diabetes Education

The American Diabetes Association has helped introduce a bill that would expand Medicare coverage for outpatient diabetes education and standardize coverage policies. The bill, "The Medicare Outpatient Diabetes Education Coverage Act of 1991," was introduced in November by Representative Rod Chandler (R-Washington State).

"Education is an utter necessity for the long-term care of people with diabetes," says Kenneth E. Quickel, Jr., MD, chair of ADA's Government Relations Committee. "We are all aware of individual patients who should have a session with an educator, but, knowing it is not going to be paid for, they decline. This act removes the barrier that exists between people with diabetes and the education that they need."

ADA is the chief architect of the new bill, an outgrowth of testimony presented in June 1991 by ADA President Jay Skyler, MD, to the Health Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. Rep. Chandler is a member of the Health Subcommittee. Testifying to the need for preventive care in diabetes, Skyler stressed the importance of reimbursing diabetes outpatient education outside hospitals. "Since the acute care

hospital can only meet acute education needs, ongoing essential education services are most effectively and efficiently provided in an outpatient setting," he said.

Current law does not specifically identify patient education programs as covered services under Medicare. However, regulations state that Medicare may pay for education services that "are appropriate, integral parts in the rendition of covered services which are reasonable and necessary for the treatment of the individual's illness or injury."

Because Medicare has no specific policy on payment for outpatient diabetes education, decisions on eligibility for payment fall to the fiscal intermediaries with whom Medicare contracts. Generally, education must be provided in either hospital outpatient department or rural health clinics. Education provided in a physician's office or a diabetes education program outside a hospital is not covered.

Even for education programs in hospitals and rural health clinics, Medicare reimbursement is inconsistent. A 40-state survey conducted by ADA in 1990 found that programs in 14 states received consistent Medicare coverage, programs in 17 states received inconsistent Medicare coverage, and programs in 9 states received no Medicare coverage. Programs that did receive Medicare payment reported inconsistency in payment levels and allowable services.

Under the new bill, the secretary of health and human services would extend Medicare payment for outpatient diabetes education to physician's office

practices and other settings outside hospitals and rural health clinics. Medicare would pay only for services provided by education programs meeting quality standards established by the National Diabetes Advisory Board.

As is now required, education would have to be ordered by a physician, be closely related to the treatment of the individual patient, and provide essential skills and knowledge for self-care. Patients with newly diagnosed, unstable, or difficult-to-manage long-standing diabetes would be eligible.

FAA Reaches Agreement With Air Traffic Controllers

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association have reached an agreement on a proposal to return insulin-dependent air traffic controllers to duty. Congressional interest in employment discrimination prompted the FAA to reexamine its policy of medically disqualifying insulin-dependent controllers. A panel of endocrinologists advised the agency on the employability of people with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus and recommended a medical protocol for determining individual qualifications. The FAA adopted the panel's recommendations, and qualified controllers will be returned to duty.

*The following were
elected to the
Professional Section as
of August 1991:*

DANIEL H. BELL, DPM, RUIDOSO DOWNS, NM
LEWIS S. BLEVINS, JR., MD, PERRY HALL, MD
DEAN BROWN, ALDERWOOD MANOR, WA
LYNN G. BROWN, BANGOR, ME
JOHN P. CAMPBELL, MD, CLEVELAND, OH
KELLY J. COLLINS, MILILANI, HI
CURTISS COOK, MD, NEW ORLEANS, LA
PARESH DANDONA, PhD, BUFFALO, NY
MICHAEL T. DOUGHERTY, YORBA LINDA, CA
SALLY DUCHIN, PhD, TUCSON, AZ
DONNA DURBIN, RD, AUSTIN, TX
KAREN B. EDELSON, DPM, MCKINNEY, TX
JOEL A. FEINBERG, DPM, CHARLOTTE, FL
JENNIFER L. FISHER, RD, OAK PARK, IL
RICHARD GOLDSTEIN, MD, NASHVILLE, TN
JO ANN GREENWALD, ROSLYN HEIGHTS, NY
ASHOK K. GUPTA, MD, PONTIAC, MI
JANE HARPER, OAKVILLE, ONTARIO, CANADA
EDWARD A. HELFAND, DPM, PASADENA, CA
RAJEEV K. JAIN, MD, MILWAUKEE, WI
LOBA JERZY, MD, SIENKIEWICZA, POLAND
SYLVIA JOYCELYN SHAW, MD, LOS ANGELES, CA
JOSEPH KIRSHENBAUM, WHEELING, IL
YOSEF KLEINMAN, MD, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL
CAROLE J. KLEPPER, LINCOLNSHIRE, IL
DENISE M. KROLL, FLORISSANT, MO
MARGE LEMMEL, HINSDALE, IL
JAMES E. LISLE, DPM, SALEM, OR
BARBARA LOFQUIST, DETROIT, MI
LOUIS LOWRY-SILVERMAN, RN, CHESHIRE, CT
MICHELLE MAEDA, RD, FULLERTON, CA
RUTH A. MENCL, KANSAS CITY, MO
BRUCE S. MUCHNICK, ED, GLENSIDE, PA
PATRICIA A. PEARCE, CRIAG, CO
CHARLES C. PEGRAM, JR., OD, LEWISBURG, WV
RITA REID, SAVANNAH, GA
PAULA REYNE BAKOS, RN, BYESVILLE, OH
THOMAS N. ROBERTS, MD, LA CROSSE, WI
WILLIAM ROJAS, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

VICKI RUBIN KELLEY, PhD, BOSTON, MA
CAPUTO SALVATORE, MD, ROME, ITALY
NITZA SANTIAGO, NCC, NEW ROCHELLE, NY

LAURA MONICA SCHWIMMER, ARGENTINA
JOANNE SCOTT, RN, BSN, SPOKANE, WA
SANDRA G. STEPHAN, RN-C, MS, CCRN, ANP, AURORA, CO
KAREN A. STEWART, DPM, LA JOLLA, CA
KENNETH E. TALBERT, MD, AMES, IA
SUSAN TUCKEY, CHICAGO, IL
FRANK VINICOR, MD, ATLANTA, GA
DAN ZIEGLER, MD, GERMANY

ADA Events

Future Meetings

5th Annual Public Policy Leadership Forum: 8–10 March 1992, Stouffer Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC.

52nd Annual Meeting: 18–23 June 1992, San Antonio, TX.

53rd Annual Meeting: 12–15 June 1993, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV.

Recognition Conferences

An 8-h conference, "Meeting the National Standards for Diabetes Patient Education Programs and Applying for ADA Recognition," has been scheduled in 2 locations in 1992:

19 June, San Antonio, TX (in conjunction with ADA Annual Meeting).

26 August, Anaheim, CA (in conjunction with AADE Annual Meeting).

This intensive practical program is designed for individuals who are in the process of applying for recognition or are planning to apply within the next 12 mo. Continuing education credits will be awarded. For more information, call 800-232-3472, ext. 214.

29th Annual Colorado Diabetes Institute

The ADA Colorado Affiliate will sponsor the 29th Annual Diabetes Institute 18–22 February 1992 at Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, Colorado. The institute will present scientific didactic lectures and panel discussions on the

mechanics of insulin action, insulin resistance, and insulin secretion. In addition, complications such as neuropathy, nephropathy, and vascular disease will be discussed. For more information, contact the American Diabetes Association, 2450 South Downing, Denver, CO 80210. Tel.: (303) 778-7556.

Diabetes Education Update

The ADA Kansas Affiliate, Wichita State University Division of Continuing Education, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita Branch, and Diabetes Treatment and Research Center of St. Joseph Medical Center, Wichita, will sponsor an intensive workshop and clinical practicum for nurses, dietitians, and other health-care professionals 30 March to 3 April 1992 (didactic) and 6–10 April 1992 (practicum) for 30 contact credit hours per session. The workshop will be held at the Hilton East in Wichita, Kansas, and the cost is \$350 per session or \$600 for both sessions. For more information, contact Phillis Clampitt, DEU Coordinator, Division of Continuing Education, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 67208-1595. Tel.: (316) 689-3726.

Emerging Concepts in Managing Diabetes

The ADA New York Downstate Affiliate and Northern Westchester Hospital will host a symposium for health professionals entitled "Emerging Concepts in Managing Diabetes" on 8 April 1992 from 0830 to 1630 at the Ramada Inn, Armonk, New York. The workshop is designed to update health professionals on the care and management of diabetic patients and will review basic background of the disease and the latest information on specific areas of interest including nutrition, exercise, eating disorders, and vision impairment. Participants will be able to examine exhibits of the latest diabetes monitoring and treatment equipment, attend lectures, and join question/answer sessions. Early program registrants will receive a \$10-fee discount. Regular registration fees are \$70

for ADA members and \$80 for nonmembers. The fee includes lunch and reference materials for participants. For more information, please contact Teresa Caulfield, ADA New York Downstate Affiliate, 100 Clearbrook Road, Elmsford, NY 10523. Tel.: (914) 345-9300; Fax: (914)345-8407.

Diabetes Care in the Hispanic Community

The Diabetes Educators of the Chicago Area and the ADA Northern Illinois Affiliate will sponsor "Diabetes Care in the Hispanic Community" 10 April 1992 at the Marriott Hotel in Oakbrook, IL. The program will feature many well-known speakers in the Chicago area on Hispanic health care and cultural issues. The cost of the program will be \$65 for ADA and ADE members and \$85 for nonmembers. For more information, contact Sue Apsey, American Diabetes Association, Northern Illinois Affiliate, 6 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1202, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel.: (312) 346-1805.

Other Events

International Symposium on Diabetes and Pregnancy in the 90s

The international symposium "Diabetes and Pregnancy in the 90s" will take place 30 March to 3 April 1992 in Tel Aviv, Israel. The symposium will comprise plenary sessions, panel discussions, short communications, and posters on clinical and experimental subjects related to gestational and preexisting diabetes in pregnancy. A special session in memory of Norbert Freinkel is also scheduled. Abstract deadline is 31 December 1991. For more information, contact Dr. M. Hod, Secretary, P.O. Box 50006, Tel Aviv, Israel. Fax: 972-3-655674.

15th Annual Conference of the American European Dietetic Association

The 15th annual conference of the American European Dietetic Association will

be held 5–7 March 1992 in Hotel Eden au Lac, Montreux, Switzerland. Continuing education credits will be given. The official language of the conference will be English. For more information, contact Elly Shaw-Belblidia, Beckehus 26, CH-5254 Boezen, Switzerland. Tel.: 41-64-66-1957.

4th International Diabetes Conference

The 4th International Diabetes Conference, "Current Topics in Diabetes Research," will be held 18–20 March 1992 in Florence, Italy. The proceedings, including lectures and oral communications, will be published by S. Karger (Basel). For more information, contact Dr. S. Iannello, Secretariat, c/o Boehringer Mannheim Italia, Via S. Uguzzone, 5, 20126 Milan, Italy. Tel.:02-252-8355/252-8355;Fax: 02-252-8220.

26th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation

The European Society for Clinical Investigation will present its 26th Annual Meeting on 1–4 April 1992 in Vienna, Austria. The meeting will focus on the derangements of the vascular endothelium and their role in the pathogenesis of late diabetic complications. The meeting will include invited speakers and oral poster presentations of submitted abstracts. For more information, contact Dr. B.H.R. Wolffenbuttel, Dept. of Internal Medicine, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, University Hospital Maastricht, P.O. Box 5800, NL-6202 AZ Maastricht, The Netherlands. Tel.: 31-43-877019; Fax: 31-43-875006.

6th International Symposium on Drugs Affecting Lipid Metabolism

The Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini of Milan and the Baylor College of Medicine (Houston) will present "Drugs Affecting Lipid Metabolism" 13–16 May 1992 in Florence, Italy. The symposium will cover a broad range of topics including molecular biology of lipoproteins and

atherosclerosis and cell to cell interaction in the arterial wall. For more information, contact Organizing Secretariat, Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini, via Monte Napoleone 23, 20121 Milan, Italy. Tel.: 02-76002267-783868; Fax: 02-781511. ADA GRANTS AND AWARDS

Career Development Awards

These awards provide up to \$75,000/yr for 3 yr to support new investigators with 2–5 yr postdoctoral/postfellowship experience. Funds are to be divided between salary (maximum of \$50,000/yr) and other grant support. Applicants must be citizens of the United States or have (or have applied for) permanent resident status and hold full-time faculty positions at U.S.-affiliated institutions. Application deadline is 3 February 1992 for 1 July funding.

Research Awards

These awards provide \$20,000–40,000/yr for 2 yr to assist new or established investigators who have a particularly novel and exciting idea for which they need support. The proposal may be related to a current area of investigation as long as it represents a novel idea. Feasibility studies will be considered under this category. Applicants must be United States citizens or have (or have applied for) permanent resident status and hold full-time faculty positions at U.S.-affiliated institutions. Funds may be used for equipment, supplies, and salary for technical assistance. Application deadline is 3 February 1992 for 1 July 1992 funding.

Clinical Research Grant Program

These grants provide up to \$60,000/yr for 3 yr for studies involving humans directly. Studies must focus on intact human subjects in which the effect of a change in the individual's external or internal environment is evaluated. In vitro research on human blood or tissue samples does not qualify unless there has been a major in vivo intervention (e.g.,

diet, drugs, exercise) and the protocol is designed specifically to quantitate the effect of this manipulation on the tissue being examined in vitro. Funds may be used for equipment, supplies, or salary for technical support. Application deadline is 3 February 1992 for 1 July 1992 funding.

Lions Sightfirst Diabetic Retinopathy Research Program

This program supports clinical or applied research in diabetic retinopathy in the United States and abroad. Up to \$40,000/yr for 2 yr will be given to sup-

port new treatment regimens, epidemiology, and translation research. Training grants and grants for equipment will be considered. Application deadline is 3 February 1992 for 1 July 1992 funding.

Medical Student Diabetes Research Fellowship Program

This program provides up to \$40,000/yr for a 3- to 6-mo period to promote medical student interest in careers of diabetes-related clinical investigation or basic research. Application must be made by the student, who must have a qualified sponsor. The student must have com-

pleted at least 1 yr of medical school. Student's award stipend is \$3000 to cover the 3- to 6-mo period of research. An additional \$1000 is available to the sponsor to defray costs of supplies, animals, or other items related to the student's project. Application deadline is 2 March 1992 for 1 July 1992 funding. For more information about the grants and awards, please contact American Diabetes Association, National Center, Division of Scientific and Medical Affairs, 1660 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Tel.: (703) 549-1500, ext. 362.