

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 4, 2016

Mr. Andy Slavitt
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

Dear Mr. Slavitt:

As the co-chairs of the Senate Diabetes Caucus, we have learned a great deal about the difficulties that diabetes causes for so many Americans and their families as they await a cure. We are committed to working to ensure the best possible care for people with diabetes and have worked to increase funding for diabetes research and provide funding to translate that research into practice.

We also recognize how critically important it is for the Medicare program to provide coverage of clinically appropriate therapies for the millions of beneficiaries living with diabetes. Effective management of diabetes is crucial to our efforts to hold down health care costs, and helping seniors to manage their diabetes successfully can allow them to continue to live healthier and more productive lives.

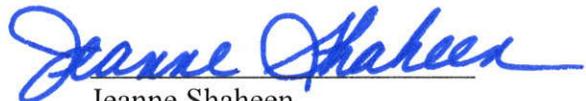
We continue to be surprised and troubled that insulin-dependent Medicare beneficiaries are being denied coverage for diabetes therapies that are available to people with private health insurance. These therapies include continuous glucose monitors, which can provide real-time readings and data about trends in blood glucose levels. They also include patch pumps that provide continuous insulin delivery from a patch without the need for tubes, such as the Omnipod Insulin Management System which the Food and Drug Administration first cleared in 2005. Many private insurers cover these technologies, but CMS has not included these devices for coverage under Medicare. Consequently, many individuals with diabetes may lose coverage for the physician-prescribed therapies they have been successfully using to manage their diabetes when they age into Medicare.

We urge you to work expeditiously to ensure that Medicare coverage policies encourage rather than discourage clinically appropriate treatment, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and to review the procedures at CMS that have resulted in these disparities in coverage. Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to working with you to find better means of prevention, management, and treatment of patients with diabetes.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator