

A CMS Medicare Administrative Contractor
<http://www.NGSMedicare.com>

May 30, 2015

Dear Medicare Beneficiary,

You are receiving this letter from National Government Services, the Medicare Jurisdiction B Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Contractor who pays claims for your diabetic supplies, because you are receiving supplies from two or more suppliers at a time. These supplies include blood glucose test strips and lancets. Medicare only covers a specified amount for testing purposes based on your diabetes plan of care and your doctor's written record.

If you have diabetes and receive insulin shots to treat it, and your doctor has a written record of your diabetic condition and plan of care, then you may qualify for:

- Up to 100 test strips and 100 lancets **every month** (average of three tests per day)

If you have diabetes but do not receive insulin shots for treatment and your doctor has a written record of your diabetic condition and plan of care, then you may qualify for:

- Up to 100 test strips and 100 lancets **every three months** (average of one test per day)

You may qualify for more than the allowed amount of test strips and lancets described above if your doctor's written record, which may include your testing logs, indicates the medical need for extra testing and that you are actually testing. **You should only be receiving these supplies from one supplier.**

Your supplier should check with you before sending you a new supply every month or every three months, depending upon the length of time for which you receive your supplies. If you receive a shipment that you did not order, **please do not sign for it or accept it.** If you are currently receiving supplies from more than one supplier, please choose the one from whom you would like to continue receiving supplies, and then stop accepting supplies from the others.

As a friendly suggestion, please talk to your doctor regarding Medicare's coverage of diabetic supplies. The notes below provide some talking points for you and your doctor at your next office visit. If you have questions about this letter or if a supplier continues to send you items that you do not need, please call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Talking with Your Doctor

Please confirm with your doctor that the following information is included in your medical records as it is necessary for proper coverage of your diabetic supplies. The local coverage determination (LCD) for glucose monitors and supplies is located on the National Government Services website at <http://www.NGSMedicare.com>:

- Select “DME Supplier” from the first drop down in the red “About Me” section
- Once on the DME Welcome page, click on Policy tab, then choose Medical Policy Center
- Scroll down to select “Glucose Monitors (L27231)” under the Local Coverage Determination column

We encourage you and your doctor to read the entire LCD.

Below are some important guidelines from this policy for you and your doctor to discuss concerning your usage of glucose monitors and supplies:

- ✓ Your diabetes is being treated by your ordering doctor.
- ✓ Your medical record reflects the care plan for your diabetes including why you are testing as often as you are and how these results are causing changes to your care plan.
- ✓ You or your caregiver have successfully completed training or are scheduled to begin training on the use of the monitor and supplies.
- ✓ You or your caregiver is using the results of your self-testing to work towards recommended control of your blood sugar.

If you are a patient who receives supplies over Medicare’s usual allowed amount, then you and your doctor should discuss these guidelines:

- ✓ Your doctor has written information in your medical record to support the medical need for you to test more frequently.
- ✓ Your doctor has seen you and evaluated your diabetes control within six months prior to ordering the quantities of supplies over these Medicare guidelines.
- ✓ Your doctor’s record contains a copy of your testing logs, and/or your medical record provides an explanation of the specific frequency of your testing.

If you are using supplies over the Medicare guidelines regularly, your doctor must have updated medical record information regarding your needs.

Sincerely,

Jurisdiction B DME Provider Outreach and Education
National Government Services, Inc.