

17:48-6n

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Diabetes--health coverage)

NJSA: 17:48-6n

LAWS OF: 1995 CHAPTER: 331

BILL NO: S1759

SPONSOR(S): Palaia

DATE INTRODUCED: January 23, 1995

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY Insurance
SENATE: Health

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage
Fourth reprint enacted denoted by superscript numbers

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: December 11, 1995
SENATE: June 26, 1995

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 5, 1996

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes
SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

KBP: pp

§1 C.17:48-6n
§2 C.17:48A-7I
§3 C.17:48E-35.11
§4 C.17B:26-2.11
§5 C.17B:27-46.1m
§6 C.26:2]-4.11

P.L.1995, CHAPTER 331, approved January 5, 1996
1995 Senate No. 1759 (Fourth Reprint)

1
2 AN ACT concerning health insurance coverage for treatment of
3 diabetes and supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
6 State of New Jersey:

7 1. a. Every individual or group hospital service corporation
8 contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits that is
9 delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to
10 P.L.1938, c.366 (C.17:48-1 et seq.) or approved for issuance or
11 renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Insurance on or
12 after the effective date of this act shall provide benefits to any
13 subscriber or other person covered thereunder for expenses
14 incurred for the following equipment and supplies for the
15 treatment of diabetes, if recommended or prescribed by a
16 physician ¹or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹; blood
17 glucose monitors and blood glucose monitors for the legally blind;
18 ⁴[data management systems;]⁴ test strips for glucose monitors
19 and visual reading and urine testing strips; insulin; injection aids;
20 cartridges for the legally blind; syringes; insulin pumps and
21 appurtenances thereto; insulin infusion devices; and oral agents
22 for controlling blood sugar.

23 b. Each individual or group hospital service corporation
24 contract shall also provide benefits for expenses incurred for
25 diabetes self-management education to ensure that a person with
26 diabetes is educated as to the proper self-management and
27 treatment of their diabetic condition, including information on
28 proper diet. Benefits provided for self-management education
29 and education relating to diet shall be limited to visits medically
30 necessary upon the diagnosis of diabetes; upon diagnosis by a
31 physician ¹or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹ of a
32 significant change in the subscriber's or other covered person's
33 symptoms or conditions which necessitate changes in that
34 person's self-management; and upon determination of a physician
35 ¹or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹ that reeducation
36 or refresher education is necessary. ²Diabetes self-management
37 education shall be provided by ³a dietitian registered by a
38 nationally recognized professional association of dietitians or³ a
39 health care professional recognized as a Certified Diabetes
40 Educator by the American Association of Diabetes Educators ⁴or
41 a registered pharmacist in the State qualified with regard to
42 management education for diabetes by any institution recognized
43 by the board of pharmacy of the State of New Jersey⁴.²

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined [thus] is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscripted numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SHM committee amendments adopted May 8, 1995.

² Senate floor amendments adopted May 17, 1995.

³ Senate floor amendments adopted June 12, 1995.

⁴ Assembly AIN committee amendments adopted November 20, 1990.

1 c. The benefits required by this section shall be provided to
2 the same extent as for any other sickness under the contract.

3 d. This section shall apply to all hospital service corporation
4 contracts in which the hospital service corporation has reserved
5 the right to change the premium.

6 e. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a health
7 benefits plan subject to the provisions of P.L.1992, c.161
8 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.) or P.L.1992, c.162 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.).

9 f. The Commissioner of Insurance may, in consultation with
10 the Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the "Administrative
11 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), promulgate
12 and periodically update a list of additional diabetes equipment
13 and related supplies that are medically necessary for the
14 treatment of diabetes and for which benefits shall be provided
15 according to the provisions of this section.

16 2. a. Every individual or group medical service corporation
17 contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits that is
18 delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to
19 P.L.1940, c.74 (C.17:48A-1 et seq.) or approved for issuance or
20 renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Insurance on or
21 after the effective date of this act shall provide benefits to any
22 subscriber or other person covered thereunder for expenses
23 incurred for the following equipment and supplies for the
24 treatment of diabetes, if recommended or prescribed by a
25 physician ¹or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹: blood
26 glucose monitors and blood glucose monitors for the legally blind;
27 ⁴[data management systems;]⁴ test strips for glucose monitors
28 and visual reading and urine testing strips; insulin; injection aids;
29 cartridges for the legally blind; syringes; insulin pumps and
30 appurtenances thereto; insulin infusion devices; and oral agents
31 for controlling blood sugar.

32 b. Each individual or group medical service corporation
33 contract shall also provide benefits for expenses incurred for
34 diabetes self-management education to ensure that a person with
35 diabetes is educated as to the proper self-management and
36 treatment of their diabetic condition, including information on
37 proper diet. Benefits provided for self-management education
38 and education relating to diet shall be limited to visits medically
39 necessary upon the diagnosis of diabetes; upon diagnosis by a
40 physician ¹or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹ of a
41 significant change in the subscriber's or other covered person's
42 symptoms or conditions which necessitate changes in that
43 person's self management; and upon determination of a physician
44 ¹or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹ that reeducation
45 or refresher education is necessary. ²Diabetes self-management
46 education shall be provided by ³a dietitian registered by a
47 nationally recognized professional association of dietitians or³ a
48 health care professional recognized as a Certified Diabetes
49 Educator by the American Association of Diabetes Educators ⁴or
50 a registered pharmacist in the State qualified with regard to
51 management education for diabetes by any institution recognized
52 by the board of pharmacy of the State of New Jersey^{4, 2}

53 c. The benefits required by this section shall be provided to
54 the same extent as for any other sickness under the contract.

1 d. This section shall apply to all medical service corporation
2 contracts in which the medical service corporation has reserved
3 the right to change the premium.

4 e. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a health
5 benefits plan subject to the provisions of P.L.1992, c.161
6 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.) or P.L.1992, c.162 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.).

7 f. The Commissioner of Insurance may, in consultation with
8 the Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the "Administrative
9 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), promulgate
10 and periodically update a list of additional diabetes equipment
11 and related supplies that are medically necessary for the
12 treatment of diabetes and for which benefits shall be provided
13 according to the provisions of this section.

14 3. a. Every individual or group health service corporation
15 contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits that is
16 delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to
17 P.L.1985, c.236 (C.17:48E-1 et seq.) or approved for issuance or
18 renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Insurance on or
19 after the effective date of this act shall provide benefits to any
20 subscriber or other person covered thereunder for expenses
21 incurred for the following equipment and supplies for the
22 treatment of diabetes, if recommended or prescribed by a
23 physician ¹or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹: blood
24 glucose monitors and blood glucose monitors for the legally blind;
25 ⁴[data management systems;]⁴ test strips for glucose monitors
26 and visual reading and urine testing strips; insulin; injection aids;
27 cartridges for the legally blind; syringes; insulin pumps and
28 appurtenances thereto; insulin infusion devices; and oral agents
29 for controlling blood sugar.

30 b. Each individual or group health service corporation contract
31 shall also provide benefits for expenses incurred for diabetes
32 self-management education to ensure that a person with diabetes
33 is educated as to the proper self-management and treatment of
34 their diabetic condition, including information on proper diet.
35 Benefits provided for self-management education and education
36 relating to diet shall be limited to visits medically necessary upon
37 the diagnosis of diabetes; upon the diagnosis by a physician ¹or
38 nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹ of a significant
39 change in the subscriber's or other covered person's symptoms or
40 conditions which necessitate changes in that person's
41 self-management; and upon determination of a physician ¹or
42 nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹ that reeducation or
43 refresher education is necessary. ²Diabetes self-management
44 education shall be provided by ³a dietitian registered by a
45 nationally recognized professional association of dietitians or³ a
46 health care professional recognized as a Certified Diabetes
47 Educator by the American Association of Diabetes Educators ⁴or
48 a registered pharmacist in the State qualified with regard to
49 management education for diabetes by any institution recognized
50 by the board of pharmacy of the State of New Jersey^{4, 2}

51 c. The benefits required by this section shall be provided to
52 the same extent as for any other sickness under the contract.

53 d. This section shall apply to all health service corporation
54 contracts in which the health service corporation has reserved

- 1 the right to change the premium.
- 2 e. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a health
3 benefits plan subject to the provisions of P.L.1992, c.161
4 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.) or P.L.1992, c.162 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.).
- 5 f. The Commissioner of Insurance may, in consultation with
6 the Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the "Administrative
7 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), promulgate
8 and periodically update a list of additional diabetes equipment
9 and related supplies that are medically necessary for the
10 treatment of diabetes and for which benefits shall be provided
11 according to the provisions of this section.
- 12 4. a. Every individual health insurance policy providing
13 hospital or medical expense benefits that is delivered, issued,
14 executed or renewed in this State pursuant to Chapter 26 of Title
15 17B of the New Jersey Statutes or approved for issuance or
16 renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Insurance on or
17 after the effective date of this act shall provide benefits to any
18 person covered thereunder for expenses incurred for the following
19 equipment and supplies for the treatment of diabetes, if
20 recommended or prescribed by a physician ¹or nurse
21 practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹: blood glucose monitors
22 and blood glucose monitors for the legally blind; ⁴[data
23 management systems;]⁴ test strips for glucose monitors and
24 visual reading and urine testing strips; insulin; injection aids;
25 cartridges for the legally blind; syringes; insulin pumps and
26 appurtenances thereto; insulin infusion devices; and oral agents
27 for controlling blood sugar.
- 28 b. Each individual health insurance policy shall also provide
29 benefits for expenses incurred for diabetes self-management
30 education to ensure that a person with diabetes is educated as to
31 the proper self-management and treatment of their diabetic
32 condition, including information on proper diet. Benefits
33 provided for self-management education and education relating
34 to diet shall be limited to visits medically necessary upon the
35 diagnosis of diabetes; upon diagnosis by a physician ¹or nurse
36 practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹ of a significant change in
37 the covered person's symptoms or conditions which necessitate
38 changes in that person's self-management; and upon
39 determination of a physician ¹or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse
40 specialist¹ that reeducation or refresher education is necessary.
41 ²Diabetes self-management education shall be provided by ³a
42 dietitian registered by a nationally recognized professional
43 association of dietitians or³ a health care professional recognized
44 as a Certified Diabetes Educator by the American Association of
45 Diabetes Educators ⁴or a registered pharmacist in the State
46 qualified with regard to management education for diabetes by
47 any institution recognized by the board of pharmacy of the State
48 of New Jersey^{4, 2}
- 49 c. The benefits required by this section shall be provided to
50 the same extent as for any other sickness under the policy.
- 51 d. This section shall apply to all individual health insurance
52 policies in which the insurer has reserved the right to change the
53 premium.
- 54 e. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a health

1 benefits plan subject to the provisions of P.L.1992, c.161
2 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.) or P.L.1992, c.162 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.).

3 f. The Commissioner of Insurance may, in consultation with
4 the Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the "Administrative
5 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), promulgate
6 and periodically update a list of additional diabetes equipment
7 and related supplies that are medically necessary for the
8 treatment of diabetes and for which benefits shall be provided
9 according to the provisions of this section.

10 5. a. Every group health insurance policy providing hospital or
11 medical expense benefits that is delivered, issued, executed or
12 renewed in this State pursuant to Chapter 27 of Title 17B of the
13 New Jersey Statutes or approved for issuance or renewal in this
14 State by the Commissioner of Insurance on or after the effective
15 date of this act shall provide benefits to any person covered
16 thereunder for expenses incurred for the following equipment and
17 supplies for the treatment of diabetes, if recommended or
18 prescribed by a physician ¹or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse
19 specialist¹; blood glucose monitors and blood glucose monitors for
20 the legally blind; ⁴[data management systems;]⁴ test strips for
21 glucose monitors and visual reading and urine testing strips;
22 insulin; injection aids; cartridges for the legally blind; syringes;
23 insulin pumps and appurtenances thereto; insulin infusion devices;
24 and oral agents for controlling blood sugar.

25 b. Each group health insurance policy shall also provide
26 benefits for expenses incurred for diabetes self-management
27 education to ensure that a person with diabetes is educated as to
28 the proper self-management and treatment of their diabetic
29 condition, including information on proper diet. Benefits
30 provided for self-management education and education relating
31 to diet shall be limited to visits medically necessary upon the
32 diagnosis of diabetes: upon diagnosis by a physician ¹or nurse
33 practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹ of a significant change in
34 the covered person's symptoms or conditions which necessitate
35 changes in that person's self-management; and upon
36 determination of a physician ¹or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse
37 specialist¹ that reeducation or refresher education is necessary.
38 ²Diabetes self-management education shall be provided by ³a
39 dietitian registered by a nationally recognized professional
40 association of dietitians or ³a health care professional recognized
41 as a Certified Diabetes Educator by the American Association of
42 Diabetes Educators ⁴or a registered pharmacist in the State
43 qualified with regard to management education for diabetes by
44 any institution recognized by the board of pharmacy of the State
45 of New Jersey^{4, 2}

46 c. The benefits required by this section shall be provided to
47 the same extent as for any other sickness under the policy.

48 d. This section shall apply to all group health insurance
49 policies in which the insurer has reserved the right to change the
50 premium.

51 e. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a health
52 benefits plan subject to the provisions of P.L.1992, c.161
53 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.) or P.L.1992, c.162 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.).

54 f. The Commissioner of Insurance may, in consultation with

1 the Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the "Administrative
2 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), promulgate
3 and periodically update a list of additional diabetes equipment
4 and related supplies that are medically necessary for the
5 treatment of diabetes and for which benefits shall be provided
6 according to the provisions of this section.

7 6. a. Every ¹[enrollee agreement providing] contract for¹
8 health care services that is delivered, issued, executed or
9 renewed in this State pursuant to P.L.1973, c.337 (C.26:2]-1 et
10 seq.) or approved for issuance or renewal in this State on or after
11 the effective date of this act shall provide health care services to
12 any enrollee or other person covered thereunder for the following
13 equipment and supplies for the treatment of diabetes, if
14 recommended or prescribed by a ¹participating¹ physician ¹or
15 ⁴participating⁴ nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹:
16 blood glucose monitors and blood glucose monitors for the legally
17 blind; ⁴[data management systems;]⁴ test strips for glucose
18 monitors and visual reading and urine testing strips; insulin;
19 injection aids; cartridges for the legally blind; syringes; insulin
20 pumps and appurtenances thereto; insulin infusion devices; and
21 oral agents for controlling blood sugar.

22 b. Each ¹[enrollee agreement] contract¹ shall also provide
23 health care services for diabetes self-management education to
24 ensure that a person with diabetes is educated as to the proper
25 self-management and treatment of their diabetic condition,
26 including information on proper diet. Health care services
27 provided for self-management education and education relating
28 to diet shall be limited to visits medically necessary upon the
29 diagnosis of diabetes; upon diagnosis by a ¹participating¹
30 physician ¹or ⁴participating⁴ nurse practitioner/clinical nurse
31 specialist¹ of a significant change in the enrollee's or other
32 covered person's symptoms or conditions which necessitate
33 changes in that person's self-management; and upon
34 determination of a ¹participating¹ physician ¹or ⁴participating⁴
35 nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist¹ that reeducation or
36 refresher education is necessary. ²Diabetes self-management
37 education shall be provided by ^{3a} ⁴participating⁴ dietitian
38 registered by a nationally recognized professional association of
39 dietitians or³ a health care professional recognized as a Certified
40 Diabetes Educator by the American Association of Diabetes
41 Educators ⁴or, pursuant to section 6 of P.L.1993, c.378
42 (C.26:2]-4.7), a registered pharmacist in the State qualified with
43 regard to management education for diabetes by any institution
44 recognized by the board of pharmacy of the State of New Jersey⁴

45 ²
46 c. The health care services required by this section shall be
47 provided to the same extent as for any other sickness under the
48 ⁴[enrollee agreement] contract⁴.

49 d. This section shall apply to all ¹[enrollee agreements]
50 contracts¹ in which the health maintenance organization has
51 reserved the right to change the schedule of charges.

52 e. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a health
53 benefits plan subject to the provisions of P.L.1992, c.161
54 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.) or P.L.1992, c.162 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.).

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1 f. The Commissioner of Insurance may, in consultation with
2 the Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the "Administrative
3 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), promulgate
4 and periodically update a list of additional diabetes equipment
5 and related supplies that are medically necessary for the
6 treatment of diabetes and for which benefits shall be provided
7 according to the provisions of this section.

8 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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Requires health insurers to provide coverage for diabetes
self-management education, equipment and supplies.

STATEMENT

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2

3 This bill requires hospital service corporations, medical service
4 corporations, health service corporations, commercial individual
5 and group health insurers and health maintenance organizations
6 to provide benefits for expenses incurred for the following
7 equipment and supplies for the treatment of diabetes, if
8 recommended or prescribed by a physician: blood glucose
9 monitors and blood glucose monitors for the legally blind; data
10 management systems; test strips for glucose monitors and visual
11 reading and urine testing strips; insulin; injection aids; cartridges
12 for the legally blind; syringes; insulin pumps and appurtenances
13 thereto; insulin infusion devices; and oral agents for controlling
14 blood sugar.

15 The bill also provides that health insurers shall provide benefits
16 for expenses incurred for diabetes self-management education to
17 ensure that a person with diabetes is educated as to the proper
18 self-management and treatment of their diabetic condition,
19 including information on proper diet. Benefits provided for
20 self-management education and education relating to diet shall
21 be limited to visits medically necessary upon the diagnosis of
22 diabetes, upon significant change in a covered person's symptoms
23 or conditions which necessitate changes in that person's
24 self-management, and upon the need for reeducation or refresher
25 education.

26 Nationwide studies indicate that access to self-management
27 education, equipment and supplies can result in cost savings for
28 hospitalization and treatment of diabetes. Studies also indicate
29 that inadequate reimbursement creates a major impediment to
30 high quality care for persons with diabetes. Despite recent
31 advances in the treatment and monitoring of this disease which
32 allow a person with diabetes to live a near normal and productive
33 life, many persons are often unable to comply with optimal
34 programs of treatment because they cannot afford the cost of
35 supplies, equipment, education or treatment. This bill would
36 require reimbursement by health insurers for diabetes
37 self-management education, equipment and supplies.

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41

42 *Requires health insurers to provide coverage for diabetes*
43 *self-management education, equipment and supplies.*

f. The Commissioner of Insurance may, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), promulgate and periodically update a list of additional diabetes equipment and related supplies that are medically necessary for the treatment of diabetes and for which benefits shall be provided according to the provisions of this section.

STATEMENT

This bill requires that health insurers provide coverage for diabetes self management education and specifies that this education shall be provided by a health care professional recognized as a Certified Diabetes Educator by the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

The amendments add that this education may also be provided by a dietitian registered by a nationally recognized professional association of dietitians.

ASSEMBLY INSURANCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[THIRD REPRINT]

SENATE, No. 1759

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 20, 1995

The Assembly Insurance Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments, Senate, No. 1759 (3R).

As amended by the committee, this bill requires hospital, medical and health service corporations, commercial individual and group health insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide benefits for expenses incurred for the following equipment and supplies for the treatment of diabetes, if recommended or prescribed by a physician or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist: blood glucose monitors and blood glucose monitors for the legally blind; test strips for glucose monitors and visual reading and urine testing strips; insulin; injection aids; cartridges for the legally blind; syringes; insulin pumps and appurtenances thereto; insulin infusion devices; and oral agents for controlling blood sugar.

The bill also requires health insurers to provide benefits for expenses incurred for diabetes self-management education to ensure that a person with diabetes is educated as to the proper self-management and treatment of their diabetic condition, including information on proper diet. Benefits provided for self-management education and education relating to diet shall be limited to visits medically necessary upon the diagnosis of diabetes, upon significant change in a covered person's symptoms or conditions which necessitate changes in that person's self-management, and upon the need for reeducation or refresher education.

Nationwide studies indicate that access to self-management education, equipment and supplies can result in cost savings for hospitalization and treatment of diabetes. Studies also indicate that inadequate reimbursement creates a major impediment to high quality care for persons with diabetes. Despite recent advances in the treatment and monitoring of this disease which allow a person with diabetes to live a near normal and productive life, many persons are often unable to comply with optimal programs of treatment because they cannot afford the cost of supplies, equipment, education or treatment.

The committee amended the bill to delete the reference to data management systems as a reimburseable benefit and to provide that diabetes self-management education shall be provided by registered pharmacists in the State qualified with regard to management education for diabetes by any institution recognized by the board of pharmacy of the State of New Jersey in addition to dietitians registered by a nationally recognized professional association of dietitians and health care professionals recognized as Certified Diabetes Educators by the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

As released by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly, No. 2878 (1R).

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1759

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 8, 1995

The Senate Health Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 1759 with committee amendments.

As amended by committee, this bill requires hospital, medical and health service corporations, commercial individual and group health insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide benefits for expenses incurred for the following equipment and supplies for the treatment of diabetes, if recommended or prescribed by a physician or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist: blood glucose monitors and blood glucose monitors for the legally blind; data management systems; test strips for glucose monitors and visual reading and urine testing strips; insulin; injection aids; cartridges for the legally blind; syringes; insulin pumps and appurtenances thereto; insulin infusion devices; and oral agents for controlling blood sugar.

The bill also provides that health insurers shall provide benefits for expenses incurred for diabetes self-management education to ensure that a person with diabetes is educated as to the proper self-management and treatment of their diabetic condition, including information on proper diet. Benefits provided for self-management education and education relating to diet shall be limited to visits medically necessary upon the diagnosis of diabetes, upon significant change in a covered person's symptoms or conditions which necessitate changes in that person's self-management, and upon the need for reeducation or refresher education.

Nationwide studies indicate that access to self-management education, equipment and supplies can result in cost savings for hospitalization and treatment of diabetes. Studies also indicate that inadequate reimbursement creates a major impediment to high quality care for persons with diabetes. Despite recent advances in the treatment and monitoring of this disease which allow a person with diabetes to live a near normal and productive life, many persons are often unable to comply with optimal programs of treatment because they cannot afford the cost of supplies, equipment, education or treatment.

The committee amended the bill to include nurse practitioners/clinical nurse specialists, in addition to physicians, as practitioners who can recommend or prescribe the services and equipment and supplies related to diabetes. Other amendments are technical and clarify terminology with respect to health maintenance organizations.