

Medical Policy: **DIABETES**

Benefit Type: **Medi-Cal**

Original Date: Jan. 29, 2015 | **Last Review Date:** May 15, 2026 | **Effective Date:** June 4, 2026

Policy Statement

In accordance with the state Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and in alignment with the American Diabetic Association Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes, it is the policy of Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) to include diabetic services as a covered benefit under Medi-Cal for all eligible beneficiaries following evidence based guidelines.

Purpose

To provide guidance related to the care and treatment of diabetes.

Health Equity Statement

GCHP is committed to the vision in which all Californians equitably benefit from resources and systems that give everyone the opportunity to achieve their optimal health, resulting in communities that thrive.

GCHP adopts the American Medical Association (AMA) and DHCS commitments to whole-person centered, evidence-based and integrated strategies to advance health equity, addressing social and structural drivers of health. Decisions are therefore based on the evidence-based criteria as well as considerations of the member’s social and structural drivers of health, and considerations that the decisions create no harm nor exacerbate existing harms.^{1,2}

Definitions

Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) System: A wearable medical device that automatically tracks blood sugar (glucose) levels 24 hours a day.

Guidelines

Guidelines include, but are not limited to:

<p>American Diabetic Association Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes (2026)</p>	<p>https://professional.diabetes.org/standards-of-care</p>
<p>DHCS Diabetes Prevention Program</p>	<p>Diabetes Prevention Program https://mcweb.apps.prd.cammis.medi-cal.ca.gov/assets/7C316612-0D8F-4103-97C7-62F3670656C6/diabetes.pdf?access_token=6UyVkRRfByXTZEWlh8j8QaYyIPyP5ULO https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/Diabetes-Prevention-Program.aspx</p>

	<p>Guide for Diabetes Prevention Providers New to Medi-Cal https://mcweb.apps.prn.cammiis.medi-cal.ca.gov/assets/EF1453E6-E19F-4559-A697-F30928BC5324/guide_new_dpp_providers_26986.01.pdf?access_token=6UyVkkRRfByXTZEWlh8j8QaYyIPyP5ULO</p>
DHCS Medi-Cal Provider Manual	<p>Diabetes https://mcweb.apps.prn.cammiis.medi-cal.ca.gov/publications/manual?q=diabetes&search=diabetes</p>
Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM)	<p>Diabetic Supplies: Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) Systems Billing Units Reminder (October 2022) https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/cms/medicalrx/static-assets/documents/provider/bulletins/2022.10_A_Diabetic_Supplies_Updates_CGM_Systems_Billing_Units_Reminder.pdf</p>

Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) System

CGM systems are a partial benefit under Medi-Cal and may be obtained through either the pharmacy benefit (Medi-Cal Rx) or the medical benefit (GCHP). Coverage cannot be deferred between benefits (e.g., from the medical benefit to the pharmacy benefit).

1. Pharmacy Benefit – Medi-Cal Rx
 - a. Provider sends a prescription order for a CGM system to the member’s preferred pharmacy.
 - b. The Provider or the pharmacy may submit prior authorization to Medi-Cal Rx for the CGM system.
 - c. If **approved** by Medi-Cal Rx, the pharmacy processes and fills the prescription for pick up.
 - d. If **denied** the member/provider may appeal the decision through Medi-Cal Rx.
2. Medical Benefit – GCHP DME Vendor
 - a. Provider submits a request and clinical rationale for a CGM system to a GCHP contracted DME vendor.
 - i. Provider Directory – DME <https://www.goldcoasthealthplan.org/provider-directory/?memberPlan=Medi-Cal>
 - b. The DME vendor will collaborate with GCHP to obtain CGM system medical necessity review and authorization.
 - c. If **approved** the DME vendor will notify the member and deliver the CGM and supplies.
 - d. If **denied** by the GCHP physician, the member/provider may appeal the decision through GCHP.

References

1. American Medical Association (AMA). (2023, December 21). [AMA Center for Health Equity Mission and Guiding Principles](#).
2. [Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\) Comprehensive Quality Strategy. \(PDF\), published February 4, 2022.](#)
3. [Medi-Cal Provider Manual – Pharmacy - Diabetes](#)

Disclaimer

Guidelines provide references identified at the time of review. New guidelines or medical literature may emerge and/or been published. Treating healthcare professionals are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment and medical guidance. GCHP regularly reviews and updates these guidelines to provide the most current information.



History

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINE HISTORY			
Adopted By MAC	Reapproved	Revised	Retired
January 29, 2015			
		January 25, 2016	
		May 16, 2017	
		Jan. 25, 2018	
		Jan. 24, 2019	
		Jan. 23, 2020	
		Jan. 21, 2021	
		Jan. 20, 2022	
		Jan. 19, 2023	
MAC Sunset on July 18, 2024			
CREDENTIALING PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE (C/PRC) GUIDELINE HISTORY			
Adopted By CPRC	Reapproved	Revised	Retired
		March 6, 2025	
		June 4, 2026	