



## Factsheet for health professionals

### Subsidised continuous glucose monitoring products for children and young people aged under 21 years

#### **The Australian Government is providing access to fully subsidised continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) products through the NDSS.**

Subsidised access to these products is open to children and young people aged under 21 years, living with type 1 diabetes, who face significant challenges in managing their blood glucose levels.

To be eligible, the person with diabetes will need to be assessed by an authorised health professional to determine if they meet specific criteria.

CGM systems are small wearable (interstitial) devices that can warn users if glucose levels are getting too low or too high. These devices reduce the number of daily finger prick tests.

Some models can work in conjunction with a compatible insulin pump and other models send information to smart mobile phones.

#### **The role of the authorised health professional**

Health professionals with expertise in diabetes will play a vital role in assessing eligibility and authorising access for eligible children and young people under the NDSS. Health professionals will also play a role in assisting those who are not currently using the device to set up their CGM system as part of their ongoing diabetes management plan.

The authorised health professionals for CGM assessment are endocrinologists, credentialed diabetes educators, and other health professionals specialising in diabetes (physicians, paediatricians or nurse practitioners).

You will be required to assess children and young people with diabetes against the eligibility criteria as listed below. If you consider that the child or young person is eligible, you (and the patient or their parent/carer) will need to complete a Continuous Glucose Monitoring Eligibility Assessment form. The completed form will need to be submitted to the local state or territory NDSS Agent for review and processing.

In completing the form, the chosen model of CGM will need to be nominated. As the various models have differing features, the patient or their parent/carer may wish to discuss the options with you. Please note that if the use of a smart mobile phone or an insulin pump is not appropriate or preferred, a separate receiver is available with the Dexcom CGM models. These receivers are not subsidised under the NDSS and the young person or parent/carer will need to contact the suppliers directly to arrange purchase.

The child or young person, or their parent/carer, will then be contacted to confirm eligibility for access to subsidised CGM products.

The [Continuous Glucose Monitoring Eligibility Assessment form](#) will be available from 1 April 2017 at the NDSS website ([www.ndss.com.au/cgm](http://www.ndss.com.au/cgm)).

#### **Eligibility criteria**

There are two categories of eligibility for access to the subsidised CGM products through the NDSS.

##### **Category A**

Children 10 years of age and younger with type 1 diabetes will be eligible for subsidised access to CGM with alarms if they fulfil ALL of the following criteria:



- the child is aged up to ten (10) years of age with type 1 diabetes; and
- the child is expected to benefit clinically from the use of CGM; and
- the family/carer has the willingness and capability to use CGM; and
- the family/carer has the commitment to actively participate in a diabetes management plan which incorporates CGM.

\* Those children in Category A who turn 11 years and have been accessing CGM products through the initiative will continue to have access until aged 21 years without the need to be reassessed under Category B.

### **Category B**

Children and young people with type 1 diabetes aged from 11 to less than 21 years will be eligible for subsidised access to CGM with alarms if they fulfill ALL of the following criteria:

- the individual is expected to benefit clinically from the use of CGM; and
- the individual or family/carer has the willingness and capability to use CGM; and
- the individual or family/carer has the commitment to actively participate in a diabetes management plan which incorporates CGM.

AND they fulfill one or more of the following criteria:

- frequent significant hypoglycaemia—more than one episode a year of significant hypoglycaemia requiring external, third party assistance; and/or
- impaired awareness of hypoglycaemia; and/or
- inability to recognise, or communicate about, symptoms of hypoglycaemia; and/or
- significant fear of hypoglycaemia for the child/young person or a family member/ carer which is seriously affecting the health and wellbeing of the child or young person or contributing to hyperglycaemia as a reaction to this fear.

For children and young people authorised under either category, subsidised access to CGM products will cease once the individual reaches 21 years of age.

### **Considerations in assessment**

An expert CGM Advisory Group, including endocrinologists, paediatricians, credentialed diabetes educators, consumer experts and other stakeholder groups, assisted in determining the eligibility criteria for this initiative.

A reasonable level of compliance is necessary for optimal clinical benefit for any user of CGM systems. Commitment to use and compliance levels are best maintained through active engagement in an ongoing diabetes management plan developed by the person with diabetes and their healthcare team.

Not all people with type 1 diabetes experience significant difficulty in managing their blood glucose levels. Unlike the subsidised supply of other products under the NDSS, there is a finite funding allocation for this initiative. It is intended for children and young people under 21 with type 1 diabetes who meet the relevant criteria and will gain significant clinical benefit.

There may be circumstances where a child or young person needs to change the CGM system they are using. In that situation, a change request form will need to be completed, signed and submitted to the local state or territory NDSS Agent for review and processing.

The [change request form](#) is available at the NDSS website ([www.ndss.com.au/cgm](http://www.ndss.com.au/cgm)). This form is also



to be used if the person with diabetes, and/or their family, in conjunction with their health professional wishes to terminate their access to CGM through the NDSS.

## **Initial CGM set up**

### **New CGM users or existing CGM users who are changing CGM model**

Once eligibility has been confirmed, a CGM starter kit, including one box of sensors, one transmitter and related materials and product information, will be provided to the health professional nominated on the form. The nominated health professional can then assist the child or young person in setting up and using CGM. Following this induction, children and young people will access ongoing CGM products through their local NDSS Access Point/pharmacy.

### **Existing CGM users**

For existing CGM users who are continuing to use the same model, CGM products will be accessed through their local NDSS Access Point/pharmacy, once their eligibility has been confirmed.

## **Information for ordering NDSS subsidised CGM products from NDSS Access Points/pharmacies**

All CGM systems subsidised under the NDSS have two components: sensors and transmitters. Both the sensors and transmitters will be subsidised and supplied through the NDSS. CGM sensors are available in boxes of four or five, and each sensor operates for six or seven days, depending on the model. Transmitters are supplied individually, and will operate for three months, six months or 12 months, depending on the model.

As CGM products are highly specialised, NDSS Access Points/pharmacies will not have stock on hand. It is therefore recommended that the young person/parent contact their NDSS Access Point/pharmacy once they are using their second last sensor to ensure sufficient time for product ordering and delivery. It is recommended that the young person/parent order a new transmitter when the battery charge begins to decrease, as detailed in the information from the supplier (transmitter expiry times vary with each model).

CGM products have a relatively short expiry. To avoid the use of out of date products, replacement CGM products will be supplied one box at a time, unless there are exceptional circumstances which require the person with diabetes to access additional products at that time.

If the child or young person experiences any product functionality issues, the supplier of the relevant model should be contacted. Contact details are provided overleaf.

## **Further information**

For more information about [access to CGM products](#) through the NDSS visit the NDSS website ([www.ndss.com/cgm](http://www.ndss.com/cgm)). You can also call the NDSS Helpline on 1300 136 588.

For information, advice or training on the use of CGM products, please contact the suppliers of CGM products.

AMSL Diabetes (for Dexcom products)

Website: [amsldiabetes.com.au](http://amsldiabetes.com.au)

Phone: 1300 851 056

Medtronic

Website: [medtronic-diabetes.com.au](http://medtronic-diabetes.com.au)

Phone: 1800 668 670



Both suppliers have instructional videos which outline the set-up, operation and features of the various products and systems through the below video files:

AMSL Diabetes (for Dexcom products)

[Dexcom G4 Platinum](#)

[DexcomG5 Mobile](#)

Medtronic

[Introduction to Continuous Glucose Monitoring](#)

[Introduction to Guardian Connect](#)

All information in this publication is correct as at March 2017