



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Jo Churchill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prevention,
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The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
By email to: george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

2 March 2021

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 October to Matt Hancock on behalf of a number of your constituents about the Diabetes UK 'Cheque for Tech' campaign. I apologise for the delay in replying, which has been caused by an unprecedented volume of correspondence in recent months and work to ensure frontline services are delivered.

I understand your constituents' concerns regarding the provision of blood glucose monitors to manage diabetes. This is an important issue and I am grateful to him/her for raising these concerns with the Department.

I would like to reassure your constituents that the Government is committed to providing the best possible care for all those with diabetes. The Government's strategy is to reduce the risk of complications to ensure a better quality of life for patients.

To achieve this, it is vital that people with diabetes receive the knowledge, tools and support to manage their condition as effectively as possible. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, NHS England (NHSE) has provided guidance for both patients and healthcare professionals, in addition to digital services to support the management of diabetes. This includes a new diabetes helpline to provide advice and support, as well as access to a variety of online tools to help individuals who are insulin-dependent. These can be found at www.england.nhs.uk by searching for 'NHS expands offer of help to people with diabetes during coronavirus outbreak'. I do hope your constituents have found these helpful.

As part of the commitments set out in the *NHS Long Term Plan*, NHSE is committed to ensuring that patients with diabetes are readily able to access proven and affordable innovations. Since April 2019, this includes the provision of flash glucose monitors for patients with Type 1 diabetes. In addition to this, it remains our priority that by this year, all pregnant women with Type 1 diabetes will be offered continuous glucose monitoring to help improve outcomes in neonatal care.

In March 2019, NHSE published guidance for patients who are eligible for funding of flash glucose sensors. This guidance is informed by an expert reference group, charities, including Diabetes UK, and patient reference groups. Further information can be found at

www.england.nhs.uk by searching for 'flash glucose monitoring: national arrangements for funding of relevant diabetes patients'.

I am pleased to let you know that the uptake of flash glucose monitoring has increased significantly since April 2019. We want to broaden access to help as many patients as possible benefit from technical innovation. Therefore, the criteria have been expanded recently to include people with Type 1 diabetes or insulin-treated Type 2 diabetes who are living with a learning disability and are recorded on their GP's learning disability register.

I hope this reply is helpful to your constituents, and clarifies how technology is being used to improve the level of care provided to people with diabetes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kind regards" followed by a stylized signature.

JO CHURCHILL