

From: [Lee, Judy E.](#)
To: [-Grp-NDLA Senate Human Services](#); [Lahr, Pat](#); [Wolf, Sheldon](#)
Subject: FW: 2140 - Response on Insulin Supplies
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 9:19:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Sheldon –
Please load in testimony for 2140.

Senator Judy Lee
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From: Megan Houn <Megan.Houn@bcbsnd.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Lee, Judy E. <jlee@ndlegis.gov>
Cc: Roers, Kristin <kroers@ndlegis.gov>
Subject: 2140 - Response on Insulin Supplies

Hi –

In response to Senator Roers' question on diabetic supplies, the highlighted items are included on the preventive drug list:

Medical supply products:

1. Blood glucose meters; (2) Blood glucose test strips; (3) Lancing devices and lancets; (4) Ketone testing supplies, such as urine strips, blood ketone meters, and blood ketone strips; (5) Glucagon, injectable or nasal forms; (6) Insulin pen needles; and (7) Insulin syringes.

We are checking how ketone testing supplies are covered and blood glucose monitors are not included as they are generally offered free of charge from the manufacturer (our Customer Contact Center also has free member codes that can be provided to members and pharmacies).

One amendment I would suggest, if the formulary isn't reinstated, is to replace "prescribed insulin drug" with "covered insulin drug". Reinstating the formulary, however, is the best and most fiscally sound option. The way that it is currently written in Senator Mathern's amendment, Section 3, subsection 5 eliminates the prohibition on having a formulary but it is replaced with a limitation on cost-sharing for diabetes medications and supplies, which could create a mental health parity issue for health insurance carriers and the only solution to this is to remove cost-sharing from other categories of prescription medications across the board. I assume this will have a significant cost impact. Last night in the Employee Benefits Committee, there was a specific bill (HB 1413) that aimed to do this and it cost PERS alone over \$18M.

Please let me know if I can be helpful with anything else.

Kind regards,
Megan

Megan Houn
Vice President, Government Affairs and Public Policy

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