

Ohio's Diabetes Cost Reduction Act (DCRA) - FAQs

What is the Diabetes Cost Reduction Act (DCRA)?

The DCRA requires state-regulated private insurance companies to provide coverage for medically necessary diabetes equipment, supplies, medication and self-management education.

Why is the DCRA important?

- One million people with diabetes live in Ohio - about 8% of our population.
- Ohio's annual healthcare expenditures for people with diabetes are over \$4.5 billion.
- 1 out of every 7 Ohio health care dollars is spent on diabetes.
- Each year more than 18,000 Ohioans die from diabetes complications, making diabetes the 6th leading cause of death.
- One in 11 people in northeast Ohio has diabetes. In the City of Cleveland, it is 1 in 10.
- Diabetes cost the people in Cuyahoga County over \$800,000,000 in 2006.

What is diabetes self-management?

People with diabetes must monitor their nutrition, test the amount of glucose in their blood many times throughout each day and calculate the amounts of medication they need to give themselves to control their blood glucose levels and stay alive, healthy and productive.

What supplies and equipment do people with diabetes need to control their blood glucose?

Medically necessary supplies for diabetes self-management include test strips, lancets, a blood glucose monitor, insulin, syringes, pumps or pens to deliver the insulin, and oral medications.

What happens if people don't know how or can't afford to properly manage their diabetes?

Without education, supplies and medication to properly control their blood glucose levels, people with diabetes face complications like blindness, nerve damage, kidney failure, liver damage, poor circulation, amputations, birth defects, miscarriage, stroke, heart disease, heart attacks and death.

Do other states have this kind of legislation?

Only 4 states do not require insurance companies to cover this life-saving diabetes care – and Ohio is one of them.

Why a mandate? Why now?

The cost of diabetes complications is a public health crisis. Diabetes in Ohio has doubled since the first DCRA legislation was introduced in Ohio 15 years ago. And each year the incidence of diabetes climbs 10% - another 63,000 Ohioans.

Will costs go up if the DCRA is passed?

Implementation of the DCRA will cost patients about 10 cents a day but will save millions of dollars in emergency room visits, surgeries, hospital stays, Medicaid spending, productivity – and it saves lives.

Will covering diabetes testing supplies, medications and education make a difference?

Study after study shows that tight control of blood glucose is the key to reducing devastating, costly and preventable diabetes complications. Good control requires testing, medication and education.

Will the DCRA save Ohio money?

46 other states think so. Their similar laws proved to be cost-effective. And clinical studies show tight glycemic control results in lower medical costs and lost productivity.