## CGM Roundup

Continuous Glucose Monitors have quickly shifted from being expensive, uncommon high-tech devices to instruments that are increasingly accessible to many patients with diabetes as essential tools for good blood glucose management.

It helps that their design has advanced to the point where they are small and fit unobtrusively under clothes, and are much sturdier than before, able to work effectively on patients who engage in high-energy sports or heavy labor.

CGMs can work with insulin pumps to create "closed loop" systems that come close to creating the Holy Grail of diabetes technology: The artificial pancreas, a system that allows users to virtually automate both tracking blood sugar levels and controlling them with appropriate doses of insulin.

### Companies that Make CGMs:

- **Dexcom:** Access information about Dexcom’s G6 CGM at: [www.dexcom.com/G6-CGM](http://www.dexcom.com/G6-CGM)  The G6 is configured to work with Tandem’s T:silmX2 insulin pump. See: [www.tandemdiabetes.com](http://www.tandemdiabetes.com).

- **Eversense:** Ascensia has assumed the marketing of this implantable device, which can monitor blood sugar for up to 90 days. See: [www.eversensediabetes.com/eversense-cgm-system](http://www.eversensediabetes.com/eversense-cgm-system)

- **Medtronic:** This company’s latest CGM is the Guardian Connect, configured to work in conjunction with an insulin pump. See: [https://www.medtronicdiabetes.com/products/guardian-connect-continuous-glucose-monitoring-system](https://www.medtronicdiabetes.com/products/guardian-connect-continuous-glucose-monitoring-system)

In late September, Dexcom announced that its G6 CGM is now available at Veterans Affairs pharmacies nationwide for veterans who have diabetes. Type 1 and Type 2 veterans who meet qualifying criteria can have 100 percent of the cost of the G6 covered by the VA.

- **Abbott:** The FreeStyle Libre is designed to work solo or with an insulin pump. See: [www.freestylelibre.us/CGM/FSL2](http://www.freestylelibre.us/CGM/FSL2)

### In the Pipeline:

At the time of this publication, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in Washington, DC, has proposed a rule change that would expand patients’ access to CGMs and establish new guidelines for payments for CGMs and their accessories.

Since many Medicare recipients have diabetes, the possible result of this policy change could mean easier, less costly access to CGMs. See: [www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-1738-p-dmepos.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-1738-p-dmepos.pdf)