



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 656 – Health Insurance – Coverage for Elevated or Impaired Blood Glucose Levels and Prediabetes Treatment

Position: *Support*

Bill Summary

SB 656 would provide the opportunity for dietitians and nutritionists to receive reimbursement for prediabetes services and would require insurers, including non-profit plans and health maintenance organizations, to provide coverage for diabetes equipment and supplies for individuals with elevated to impaired blood glucose levels due to pregnancy or prediabetes.

MHA Position

Maryland's hospitals support efforts that expand coverage for services to prevent chronic diseases, such as diabetes. Under the upcoming phase of the Medicare waiver, Maryland's hospitals will be responsible for managing the total cost of care for Medicare, and for improvements in population health across all payers.

The proposed first measure for population health accountability is to reduce the incidence of diabetes onset. Despite the growth in scientific advances in management, diabetes continues to be a chronic disease plagued by frequent hospital readmissions. Long term uncontrolled diabetes contribute to other chronic diseases like heart disease and renal health. Success in managing readmissions and the reduction of the disease will be a tremendous feat. This will require collaboration and coordination across all sectors of the health care field, including insurers.

Preventing diabetes-related hospital readmissions takes a multidisciplinary team that includes registered nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, physician assistants, registered dietitians, pharmacists, social workers, nursing assistants, and certified diabetes educators (CDEs). The team helps educate patients, serves as a resource to staff, implements prevention interventions and collaborates with other healthcare providers. Any innovations in the delivery of care that will be critical to improvements in population health cannot be realized if the necessary services are not covered by insurance plans.

For these reasons, we urge you to give SB 656 a *favorable* report.