

ABBOTT DIABETES CARE

Market Access Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit

What is **flash glucose monitoring** and **Abbott's FreeStyle Libre 2**?

Flash glucose monitoring automatically measures, displays, and continuously stores glucose readings.* It can be used to help make diabetes treatment decisions, including insulin dosing, without the need for routine finger pricking[§] to get a blood sample, which can be painful and inconvenient. These digital health tools are simple to use and can be life-changing for people living with diabetes, both physically and emotionally. The FreeStyle Libre 2 system** is a flash glucose monitor. It helps people living with diabetes self-manage their chronic condition as well as connect with their healthcare provider[¶] and loved ones.[¶]

At 14 days, the FreeStyle Libre 2 is the longest lasting sensor currently available, making it easier for patients to remember to change their sensors on the same day, every two weeks. Additionally, the FreeStyle Libre 2 is the only glucose monitoring system that measures glucose levels every minute, ensuring that patients get notified in real-time when glucose levels are rapidly changing.** The FreeStyle Libre 2 is indicated for people ages four and older and offers optional alarms that signal when glucose levels are too low or too high. Having access to this kind of technology can help people better manage their diabetes in community, live healthier lives and prevent unnecessary hospitalization.



Access and affordability

According to Diabetes Canada, more than 5.7 million Canadians are living with diabetes.¹ There is an urgent need to ensure “access” through provincial coverage to life-changing technology like the FreeStyle Libre 2. Ensuring access means Canadians with diabetes who would benefit from the FreeStyle Libre 2 can access it through their provincial healthcare coverage.

Abbott is focused on driving the development of sensing technologies that are accurate, affordable, and accessible to help people with diabetes reach better health outcomes. Abbott’s objective is to support access to the FreeStyle Libre 2 across Canada by achieving private payer, provincial and territorial coverage.



The access story across Canada

Provincial and territorial governments from coast-to-coast have started to recognize the benefits of flash glucose monitoring. To date, the FreeStyle Libre 2 is reimbursed in Yukon^Q, Saskatchewan^P, Manitoba^Q, Prince Edward Island^R, Quebec^S and Ontario^P for those who meet the criteria. This represents a step in the right direction, but the absence of coverage in other areas of the country has left many Canadians without this support.

Under current provincial and territorial healthcare frameworks, significant populations across Canada with high rates of type 2 diabetes – including seniors, Indigenous Peoples, South Asian and Black communities – are disproportionately left without access to flash glucose monitoring devices.

Abbott is committed to working with provincial and territorial health authorities to achieve coverage and listing of the FreeStyle Libre 2 for people living with diabetes – so that more Canadians can benefit from this life-changing technology and live healthier lives.



Why does **access** matter?

What is at stake for people living with diabetes in Canada—and how can access to flash glucose monitoring technology help?



1

Diabetes is a nation-wide challenge -

According to Diabetes Canada, more than 5.7 million Canadians are living with diabetes, representing 14 per cent of the population.² Canadians living with diabetes are three times more likely to be hospitalized compared to those without diabetes. In a country with a healthcare system stretched thin by COVID-19, providing access to better preventative digital health tools such as flash glucose sensors can help alleviate downstream strain on the health system.



2

Digital health tools improve quality of life -

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, people living with diabetes meet with their healthcare teams only a few hours each year and must self-manage their diabetes by monitoring their glucose in addition to balancing medication, nutrition, and exercise.³ Luckily, there are many innovative digital health tools, like the FreeStyle Libre 2 flash glucose monitoring system, that make it easier for Canadians living with diabetes. These devices use a small sensor to automatically measure and provide information about glucose levels, giving their healthcare team the insights needed to make informed treatment decisions and better manage their health.⁵



3

The financial burden is growing -

Canadians who are living with diabetes or caring for someone with diabetes, are also struggling with the financial burden that comes with paying out of pocket. According to a 2021 Ipsos poll, 80 per cent of Canadians think that governments should cover the cost of diabetes devices for those without private or employer insurance plans.⁴ Providing public access to digital health tools like the FreeStyle Libre 2 can support the physical wellbeing of people living with diabetes and reduce the financial burden as well.

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4

South Asian and Black communities are at increased risk - Canada is home to more than 2.5 million South Asian Canadians.⁵ Additionally, over 1.2 million people in Canada identify as Black.⁶ According to Diabetes Canada, the prevalence of diabetes among these groups is high—and growing. In Canada, South Asian communities are 3.4 times⁷ more likely and Black Canadians are 6.6 times⁸ more likely to develop diabetes compared to Caucasians. However, the current access framework in most provinces does not support people with type 2 diabetes. To support the health and wellbeing of these communities, expanding access to digital health tools like the FreeStyle Libre 2 system is an important step.



5

Diabetes is widespread among Indigenous communities - There are more than 1.8 million Indigenous people living across Canada. According to Diabetes Canada, 17.2 per cent of all First Nations individuals living on reserve are living with diabetes.⁹ The majority of Indigenous people living with diabetes are type 2 – leaving many without access to flash glucose technology. Expanding access to flash glucose monitors like the FreeStyle Libre 2, can help support the health and wellbeing of Indigenous communities, particularly for those living on remote First Nations.



6

Affordability is key¹⁰ - FreeStyle Libre systems are cost-effective compared to traditional glucose monitoring¹¹ and self-monitoring of blood glucose (test strips) for people living with Type 1 or 2 diabetes.^{12,13}

Getting Involved

If you are seeking access to flash glucose monitoring to help you or a loved one manage their diabetes, there are many ways to support expanded provincial support for people living with diabetes across Canada.

Here are some ways to get involved:

Write to your provincial or territorial representative

Reaching out to your local Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) or Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) is an effective way to increase awareness. Visit your provincial or territorial government website to find your representative's contact information. Below are some key facts that you can use in a letter:



The financial burden of diabetes is well-established – it impacts not only people living with diabetes, but also their families and our health care system.



Canada has more than 5.7 million people living with diabetes—or 14 per cent of the population.¹⁴ Expanding access to include digital health tools like the FreeStyle Libre 2 flash glucose monitoring system will help thousands of people in the province live fuller, healthier lives.



Ipsos reports that 80 per cent of Canadians think that governments should cover the cost of diabetes devices for those without private insurance plans.¹⁵ Providing provincial access to digital health tools like flash glucose monitors will also improve the financial wellbeing of thousands of people across the province.



Members of South Asian communities have a 3.4 times higher¹⁶ incidence rate and Black Canadians have a 6.6 times higher¹⁷ incidence rate of diabetes compared to Caucasians. Expanding access to include flash glucose monitors plays a critical role in supporting better health outcomes in these high-risk communities.



Call to action

Access to flash glucose monitors should be available to all Canadians living with diabetes—so that everyone living with diabetes can lead their healthiest lives.

Helpful Hints:

1

Get personal!

Include a personal story or testimonial.

2

Bring the facts.

The key points supplied here are all fact-based, relevant insights that you can use to help inform.

3

Remember – change

takes time, but with these tips and tools, you can help support better access.

Engage on social media

Engaging on social is another way to show your support. Below are a few samples of social media posts you can use. You can also engage with other diabetes advocacy groups like [Diabetes Canada](#), [JDRE](#), [CARP](#) and your local provincial diabetes organizations.

[SAMPLE POST]

As someone living with diabetes, I do everything I can to live a healthy lifestyle. But in Canada – everyone with diabetes should have access to technology, like flash glucose monitoring systems, that’s proven to support better outcomes.

Share your story:

Have a story you want to share? Email ADC_Can_Communications@abbott.com to get in touch. Abbott is looking for stories from those who are benefitting from OR seeking access to the FreeStyle Libre 2 in Canada.

Disclaimers

* To get a complete glycemic picture over the last 3 months, the sensor must be replaced every 14 days and the sensor must be scanned at least once every 8 hours.

§ A finger prick test using a blood glucose meter is required during times of rapidly changing glucose levels when interstitial fluid glucose levels may not accurately reflect blood glucose levels or if hypoglycemia or impending hypoglycemia is reported by the FreeStyle Libre 2 app or when symptoms do not match the app readings.

** The FreeStyle Libre 2 flash glucose monitoring system is indicated for measuring interstitial fluid glucose levels in people aged 4 years and older with diabetes mellitus. Always read and follow the label/insert.

¥ The LibreView website is only compatible with certain operating systems and browsers. Please check www.libreview.com for additional information

¶ The LibreLinkUp app is only compatible with certain mobile devices and operating systems. Please check www.librelinkup.com for more information about device compatibility before using the app. Use of LibreLinkUp and FreeStyle Libre 2 requires registration with LibreView. The LibreLinkUp mobile app is not intended to be a primary glucose monitor: home users must consult their primary device(s) and consult a healthcare professional before making any medical interpretation and therapy adjustments from the information provided by the app.

Ω Yukon: For people with type 1 diabetes. Permanent funding for glucose monitors available to adult Yukoners, Government of Yukon, September 14, 2020.

μ Saskatchewan: For children and youth under the age of 18 who meet certain medical criteria. Saskatchewan Formulary Bulletin #201. Saskatchewan Health. June 1, 2021.

α Manitoba: For people 25 years of age or under with type 1 diabetes who meet the criteria. Manitoba Drug Benefits and Interchangeability Formulary Bulletin #113.

Π Prince Edward Island: The FreeStyleLibre 2 is covered under the PEI Glucose Sensor Program for those who manage their diabetes with insulin. Health PEI. June 1, 2022.

Σ Quebec: For people who meet the following two criteria: over 18 years of age on intensive insulin therapy (insulin pump treatment or ≥ 3 insulin injections per day) and with frequent episodes hypoglycemia in the last year. List of Medications, July 10, 2019. Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ). FreeStyle Libre Changement dans les critères de remboursement. April 29, 2020.

⊔ Ontario: For people [over four years of age] managing diabetes with insulin. Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary Edition 43 (gov.on.ca). December 17, 2021.

£ Use of FreeStyle LibreLink requires registration with LibreView. Automatic upload requires a wireless internet connection or mobile data connection. The LibreView website is only compatible with certain operating systems and browsers. Please check www.libreview.com for additional information.

Sources

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¹⁰Public Health Agency of Canada. Informing a Framework for Diabetes in Canada: Stakeholder Engagement Summary. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/informing-framework-diabetes-canada-stakeholder-engagement-summary/informing-framework-diabetes-canada-stakeholder-engagement-summary.pdf>. 2022.

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