

# Rx: CGMs ADDED TO PHARMACY BENEFIT

In April 2022, Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs) such as FreeStyle Libre and Dexcom were added to the pharmacy benefit, offering patients and providers a simpler and timelier ordering option. CGMs can still be ordered as a DME benefit (durable medical equipment).

Here's how the two options differ in efficiency, patient cost and prior authorization:

- CGMs as a pharmacy benefit can be easily submitted to MXP (Maxor mail order). This offers a more streamlined process, and patients typically receive their supplies sooner, in 10-14 days. The prior authorization criteria is also more straightforward: patients simply need to be using an insulin pump OR both basal and prandial insulin. There is no longer a requirement for a patient to use multiple test strips per day prior to qualifying for coverage. However, as a pharmacy benefit, CGMs come under a Tier 2 copay of \$34 mail order/\$38 network retail pharmacy.
- CGMs ordered as a DME benefit retain the same copayment as before April: either a 20% (retirees without Medicare Part B) or \$0 copay (Active Duty Families and Retirees with Part B). The DME prior authorization criteria focuses on severity of disease and is more complicated.

If cost is not a significant barrier, we recommend patients get CGMs through the pharmacy benefit, as the process is timelier and more straightforward.

**Please note: Insulin pumps still need to be processed as a DME.**

