



# Congressional Diabetes Caucus

## Monthly Newsletter

110<sup>th</sup> Congress – April 2008

### MESSAGE FROM THE CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

As the chairs and vice chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, we'd like to present the April edition of the Caucus Monthly Newsletter. Below you will find the latest news in diabetes, summaries of recent diabetes events, and updates on the legislative priorities of the Caucus. We hope that you and your staff find this newsletter helpful and informative.

#### The Caucus has two reminders:

- The Congressional Diabetes Caucus website has been under construction was recently re-launched. Please check it out at [www.house.gov/degette/diabetes](http://www.house.gov/degette/diabetes) for Caucus news and other pertinent diabetes information. **Please consider placing a link to the Caucus website on your Member's website.**
- Also, please note a new section of the newsletter entitled "Did You Know???" Each month the Caucus will highlight a legislative priority area or an interesting fact about diabetes policy. Please contact Heather Foster in Rep. DeGette's office or Olivia Kurtz in Rep. Castle's office if your office would like the Caucus to feature a particular policy concern in the new section.

Please contact Heather Foster at [heather.foster@mail.house.gov](mailto:heather.foster@mail.house.gov) or 5-4431 in Rep. DeGette's office if you would like more information about the Caucus or would like to join.

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Co-Chair

Rep. Michael N. Castle  
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Rep. Xavier Becerra  
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- [Study: Obesity, diabetes rates rising faster in NYC than US](#)
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- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a final rule that will modernize the Medicare conditions for coverage for the nation's dialysis centers and promote higher quality of care for patients receiving dialysis.

The final regulation will enhance the quality of care available to more than 336,000 Medicare beneficiaries with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) who receive dialysis treatment from more than 4,700 Medicare-approved renal dialysis facilities across the U.S. The regulation reflects important clinical and scientific advances in dialysis technology and standards of care practices. The regulation also updates the current requirements that were first published in 1976.

This regulation will serve as minimum standards that dialysis facilities must meet in order to meet to be certified under the Medicare program. These conditions for coverage are part of the Medicare survey and certification process.

The final rule is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on April 15, 2008 and is currently available on the Federal Register website as well as the CMS website ([www.cms.hhs.gov/CFCsAndCoPs/downloads/ESRDdisplayfinalrule.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CFCsAndCoPs/downloads/ESRDdisplayfinalrule.pdf)). The effective date for the rule is October 14, 2008 (180 days from the publication date) and the compliance date is February 9, 2009 (300 days from the publication date), allowing dialysis centers sufficient time to adjust their business practices to meet these new standards.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Lewandowski (202-690-5941) in the CMS Office of Legislation.



## Diabetes Briefings

The event featured **Former Acting Surgeon General, Kenneth Moritsugu, Former Miss America, Nicole Johnson, and the President of the American Association of Diabetes Educators, Amparo Gonzalez.** Diabetes, a disease currently affecting over 20 million Americans, requires patients to manage their disease daily. Without proper information and education about the disease and treatment, patients will be put at risk for serious complications. However, with continually increasing numbers of new cases, health care providers struggle to meet the demand for diabetes care and education. In response to this problem, Johnson & Johnson created the Diabetes Institute, a new global initiative designed to provide health professionals at the community level with state-of-the-art information, training and resources so that patients with diabetes can live healthier, longer lives

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Please check the **Diabetes Caucus website** for upcoming events at [www.house.gov/degette/diabetes](http://www.house.gov/degette/diabetes).

### RECENT EVENTS

- **Learning the Importance of Diabetes Education**  
The Diabetes Caucus hosted a briefing about the Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Institute (JJDI) and the importance of diabetes education.



### Did You Know???

#### FASCINATING FACT

- Currently the CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT) program **only has enough funding for 28 states** to initiate basic implementation of diabetes surveillance and awareness programs, leaving the following states without even the most elementary tools to fight this epidemic: Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, D.C., Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming. **Increasing funding for DDT to \$83.5 million this year would make a \$1 investment for every person with diabetes in innovative, state-based disease prevention programs across the country.**

### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- H.R. 2762, reauthorizing the *Special Diabetes Programs for Type I Diabetes and Indians*. The bill would reauthorize the special diabetes programs for type 1 research and prevention/treatment for Native Americans for five years, with an increase in funding. The bill includes a five-year reauthorization at increased funding levels for both programs. The bill currently has 251 cosponsors
- H.R. 1647, *including podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the Medicaid Program*. The bill would classify podiatrists as physicians for purposes of direct reimbursement through the Medicaid program. The bill currently has 191 cosponsors.
- H.R. 2210, the *"Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act of 2007."* The Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act is designed to promote research, treatment, and education regarding diabetes in minority populations. This specific focus will help us address the unique challenges faced by minority populations and provide more effective treatment and education. The bill currently has 71 cosponsors.
- H.R. 4218, the *"Medicare Diabetes Self-Management Training Act of 2007."* The bill would make a technical clarification to recognize certified diabetes educators (CDE) as providers for Medicare diabetes outpatient self-management training services (DSMT). CDEs are the only health professionals who are specially trained and uniquely qualified to teach patients with diabetes how to improve their health and avoid serious diabetes related complications. The 1997 authorizing DSMT statute did not include CDEs as Medicare providers and it has become increasingly difficult to ensure that DSMT is available to patients who need these services, particularly those with unique cultural needs or who reside in rural areas. The bill currently has 15 cosponsors. **On March 31, 2008, the Diabetes Caucus co-chairs sent a letter to Chairman Max Baucus and Ranking Member Charles Grassley of the Senate Finance Committee, requesting that the Senate Finance Committee consider including the relevant provisions of H.R. 4218 in its forthcoming Medicare package.**



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