

Insulin Pump Choice Matters

Tell insurance companies: My Diabetes. My Insulin Pump. My Choice.

To stay healthy, people with diabetes need insurance coverage that allows them to control their disease. Through its [#Coverage2Control](#) campaign, JDRF is urging insurance companies to **say “no” to exclusive agreements with pump makers that limit patient choice**. JDRF feels strongly that people with type 1 diabetes (T1D) should have the freedom to choose the insulin pump that’s best for them.

The Pump Choice Problem

- UnitedHealthcare, the largest private health insurer in the nation, has entered into an agreement with a medical device provider that effectively limits patients to one brand of pump, unless they can obtain an exception. **It’s important that other insurers don’t follow suit.**
- People with diabetes who can’t afford the out-of-pocket costs for the pump that’s best for them may decide to go without one. This puts their health at risk and leads to higher healthcare costs for everyone.

Why Insulin Pump Choice Matters

More than 1.25 million Americans with T1D must continuously take insulin to live. Insulin pumps have made this process easier. But just like diabetes isn’t one size-fits-all, neither are pumps. Some pumps are waterproof; some have larger insulin reservoirs; some have smaller basal and bolus increments; others can be remote controlled.

Insulin pumps are sophisticated medical devices that save lives — different ones work best for different people. In fact, **almost half** of people who stopped using an insulin pump within one year said it was because the pump did not fit their lifestyle, according to one survey. This makes sense: It’s a personal decision that directly affects how people manage their T1D, and so it should be them, and their healthcare team, who make this decision — not their insurance company.

“Having a pump allows me more freedom. Being able to choose the features and look of a pump was very important to me, because it’s a device that’s connected to me 24/7.

– AJ Melhus, 27-year-old with T1D

Exclusive agreements are bad for people with T1D, bad for our healthcare system and bad for innovation. When a medical device manufacturer enters into agreements with insurers, they have little incentive to innovate and develop new treatments, making it even harder to manage what is already a challenging disease.

How You Can Help!

1. [Click here](#) to tell UnitedHealthcare that less choice for children and adults is unacceptable. Then, share with others!
2. **Share your support** on social media using #Coverage2Control, and encourage others to join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and follow us @JDRFAdvocacy.
3. **Visit [Coverage2Control.com](#)** to learn more about JDRF’s campaign and why pump choice matters.