

SUPPORTING RURAL HOSPITALS' GLYCEMIC MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

Request Description

The Committee recognizes the challenges rural hospitals face in complying with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) for hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia-related hospital harm. To support these hospitals in adopting advanced insulin management technology, the Committee encourages the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to clarify that existing grant programs may be used to purchase and implement FDA-approved continuous glucose monitoring systems, automated insulin delivery systems, and related software. This investment would enhance patient safety, improve diabetes care, and reduce the burden on health care providers in underserved communities.

Requested Language

Supporting Rural Hospitals Glycemic Management Standards – The Committee recognizes the critical role of advanced technology in improving patient safety and health outcomes in rural hospitals, particularly for managing diabetes-related conditions. To support compliance with the mandatory CMS electronic clinical quality measures on hospital harm related to hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia, the Committee encourages HRSA to allow rural hospitals to utilize existing HRSA grant programs for the purchase and implementation of FDA-approved insulin management technology. This includes continuous glucose monitoring systems, automated insulin delivery systems, and associated software solutions designed to prevent adverse events related to blood glucose levels. The Committee urges HRSA to issue guidance clarifying that these technologies are an allowable use of grant funds, provided they align with program goals to improve patient care, enhance safety, and reduce the burden on providers.

Justification

On April 10, 2024, CMS issued a final rule mandating hospitals participating in the Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) program to report incidents of severe hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia beginning in the Calendar Year 2026 reporting period. This requirement poses significant challenges for small and rural hospitals, which often lack the staff and financial resources to invest in necessary technologies, such as insulin management software, to ensure accurate reporting and improved patient outcomes. Without access to these tools, compliance with CMS's mandate will place an undue burden on already strained health care facilities, potentially impacting the quality of diabetes care and patient safety. Allowing Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant funds to be used for insulin management software would provide critical financial support to these hospitals, enabling them to adopt cost-effective, technology-driven solutions that enhance diabetes management, improve reporting accuracy, and ultimately lead to better health outcomes for patients in rural and underserved communities.

About Glytec

Glytec is a leading health care technology company specializing in insulin management and glycemic control solutions. Integrating with electronic health records (EHRs) and leveraging real-time data, Glytec's FDA-cleared technology helps providers improve patient outcomes, reduce hospital stays, and lower overall health care costs. The company's solutions support personalized, evidence-based insulin dosing and are used by 400+ hospitals and health systems nationwide to enhance diabetes care and patient safety.

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