

**Texas Diabetes Council
October 28, 2021**

**Diabetes Related Bills
87th Texas Legislature**

We have one of the best times in Texas history for effective and targeted diabetes education as never before with the passing of some critical diabetes related bills by the 87th Legislature. A huge thank you to our Governor, Senators, Representatives, Doctors, Community Leaders that worked tirelessly to pass these bills. Here on the Council, I want to thank our Advocacy and Outreach Workgroup for their dedication and commitment to some of these bills: Jason Ryan, Veronica De La Garza, Dr. LaCivita (former Chair), and Dr. Sloan.

One of the ways to make our diabetes education here at the Council effective is sharing with everyone that could use this information. I have always felt that much of our work is not getting to the people that actually need them. Please take it upon yourself to share with local community organizations, places of worship, local clinics, medical entities- our physicians are doing their very best, yet there are lots of grounds to cover to ensure that everyone that needs the results of our work get them, know of the work and are able to utilize the work.

- 1. SB 827—Caps insulin copays.** This bill caps insulin copays to \$25 per prescription for a 30-day supply for those on state regulated plans and for state employee plans. Analysis of this bill: (a) Provides that this subchapter applies only to a health benefit plan (HBP) that provides benefits for medical or surgical expenses incurred as a result of a health condition, accident, or sickness, including an individual, group, blanket, or franchise insurance policy or insurance agreement, a group hospital service contract, or a small or large employer group contract or similar coverage document that is offered by certain organizations.(b) Provides that this subchapter applies to group health coverage made available by a school district in accordance with Section 22.004 (Group Health Benefits for School Employees), Education Code. (c) Provides that this subchapter, notwithstanding any provision in Chapter 1551 (Texas Employees Group Benefits Act), 1575 (Texas Public School Employees Group Benefits Program), 1579 (Texas School Employees Uniform Group Health Coverage), or 1601 (Uniform Insurance Benefits Act for Employees of The University of Texas System and The Texas A&M University System) or any other law, applies to certain coverage plans under those chapters.

2. **HB 18—Prescription drug savings program.** Establishes a program for Texans without health benefit plan coverage for a prescription drug benefit through which those individuals will be able to purchase prescription drugs at the post-rebate price.
3. **HB 4—Tech-related health care services.** Requires Medicaid and other public benefits programs recipients to have the option to receive services as telemedicine medical services, telehealth services, or otherwise using telecommunications or information technology (among other telehealth expansion efforts)
4. **HB 133—Medicaid benefits postpartum.** Continues postpartum coverage for pregnant women for 6 months.
5. **HB 1935—Emergency insulin.** Gives pharmacists the authority to dispense a 30-day emergency supply of insulin and insulin-related equipment and supplies if specific criteria are met.
6. **HB 2509—Graduate medical education for podiatric medicine.** Relates to measures to support or enhance graduate medical education for the practice of podiatric medicine in this state. UTRGV will house the first podiatry school in the state.
7. **HB 3459—Prior authorization.** Streamlines prior authorization requirements and removes barriers i.e. for certain services, if a physician earns insurer approval on 80% of preauthorization requests for the service in one calendar year, the doctor will be exempt from preauthorization for that service in the next calendar year. Secondly, the bill requires insurers' utilization reviews to be with a physician in the same or similar specialty as the patient's physician. This bill reduces health insurers red tape delays.

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