

LifeScan Diabetes Institute Issues Precautionary Alert to Diabetes Healthcare Providers because of SNAP benefits amid federal government shutdown

Early issuance of SNAP “Food Stamp” benefits may impact diabetes self-management

CHESTERBROOK, PA, JANUARY 18, 2018

LifeScan Diabetes Institute is issuing an Institute Precautionary Alert to all healthcare practitioners who provide care for people with diabetes and who are participants in the US Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as “food stamps.”

3 THINGS DIABETES HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS NEED TO KNOW

1. February SNAP benefits are being issued early—on or before January 20th—because of the federal government shutdown¹
2. 80% of SNAP benefits are redeemed within two weeks of receipt²
3. Poor budgeting may worsen food insecurity, which worsens diabetes self-management³

3 RECOMMENDED STEPS FOR DIABETES HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO TAKE

1. Encourage SNAP recipients “to space their food purchases throughout the month of February rather than making mass purchases”⁴
2. Inform SNAP recipients of local food banks, such as through the Feeding America network⁵
3. Advise patients with diabetes to follow the treatment plan their healthcare team has in place for them to mitigate the increased risk for uncontrolled hyperglycemia and severe hypoglycemia⁶

SOURCES

¹ <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/01/08/usda-announces-plan-protect-snap-participants-access-snap-february>

² <https://www.cbpp.org/research/policy-basics-the-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27406399> (“Food insecurity and diabetes self-management among food pantry clients” Public Health Nutr 2017 Jan;20(10):183-189)

⁴ <https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2019/01/texas-issues-february-snap-food-benefits-early>

⁵ <https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>

⁶ http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/42/Supplement_1/S7 American Diabetes Association. 1. Improving care and promoting health in populations: Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2019. Diabetes Care 2019;42(Suppl. 1):S7-S12 (especially Food Security and Treatment Considerations sections)