

Insulin Access and Affordability Working Group

For millions of people with diabetes, including all individuals living with type 1 diabetes, access to insulin is a literal matter of life and death. The cost of insulin has steadily been rising, putting this life-saving drug out of reach for millions who need it. In the spring of 2017, at the direction of the Board of Directors, the American Diabetes Association (ADA) established an Insulin Access and Affordability Working Group to address this alarming problem. The Working Group was formed to determine the full scope of the insulin affordability problem, and was tasked with advising the ADA on developing long-term solutions to bring down the cost of insulin. Dr. William Cefalu, ADA's Chief Scientific, Medical & Mission Officer, serves as the chair of the Working Group which includes outside experts, past members of ADA's board, and ADA staff.

In 2017 and 2018, the Working Group conducted a series of meetings with stakeholders throughout the insulin supply chain. The goal of these discussions was to learn how each part of this complex system impacts insulin costs for people with diabetes. The Working Group met with more than 20 stakeholders at all levels of the supply chain including pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacies, pharmacists, health plans, employers, people with diabetes and caregivers. The Working Group also closely analyzed publicly available information concerning the cost of insulin. The Working Group's conclusions and recommendations were published online in *Diabetes Care* and are included in the June 2018 issue of the journal.