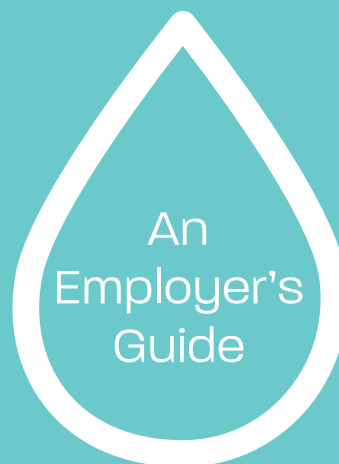
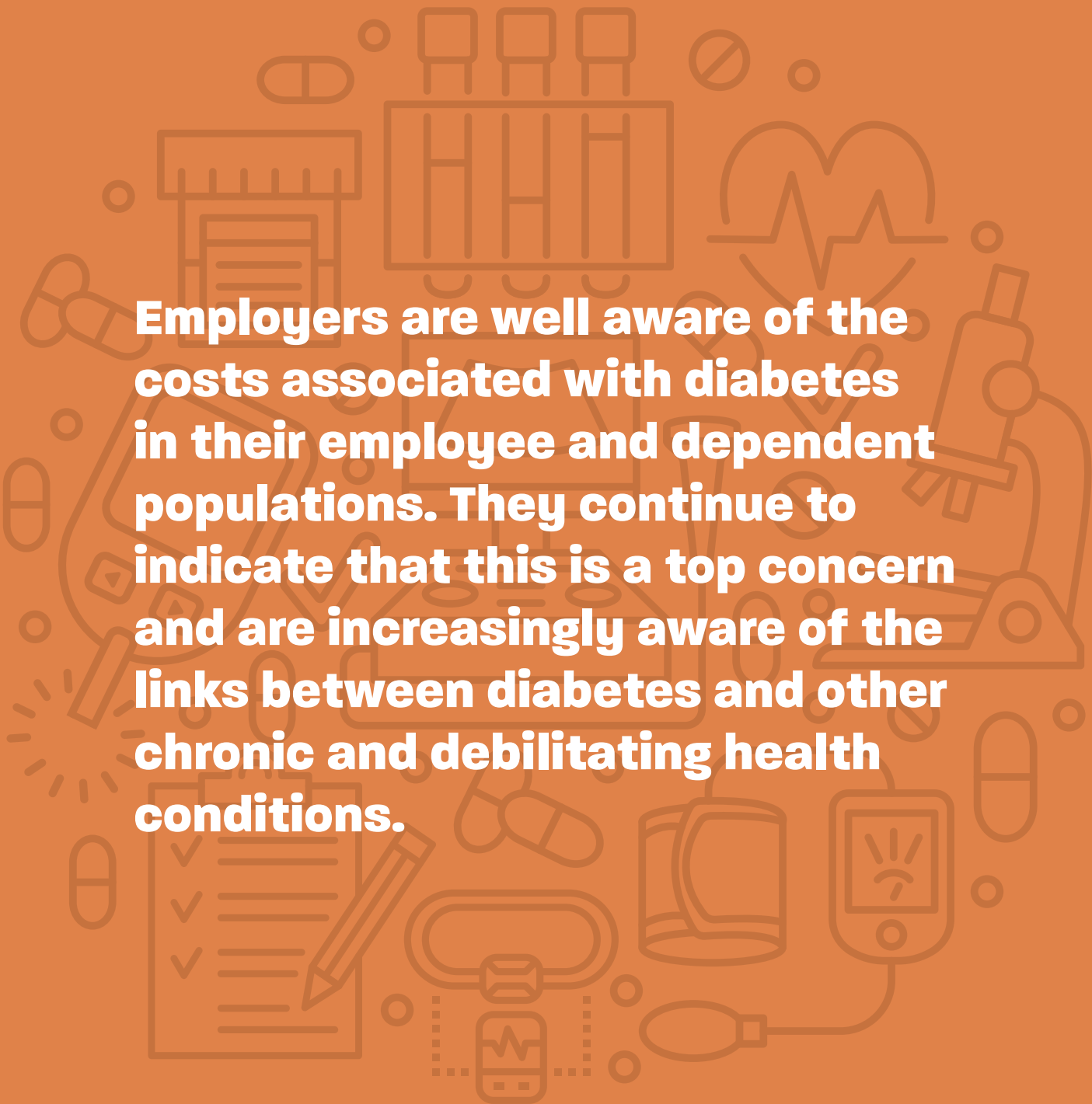


# Digital Tools and Solutions for Diabetes



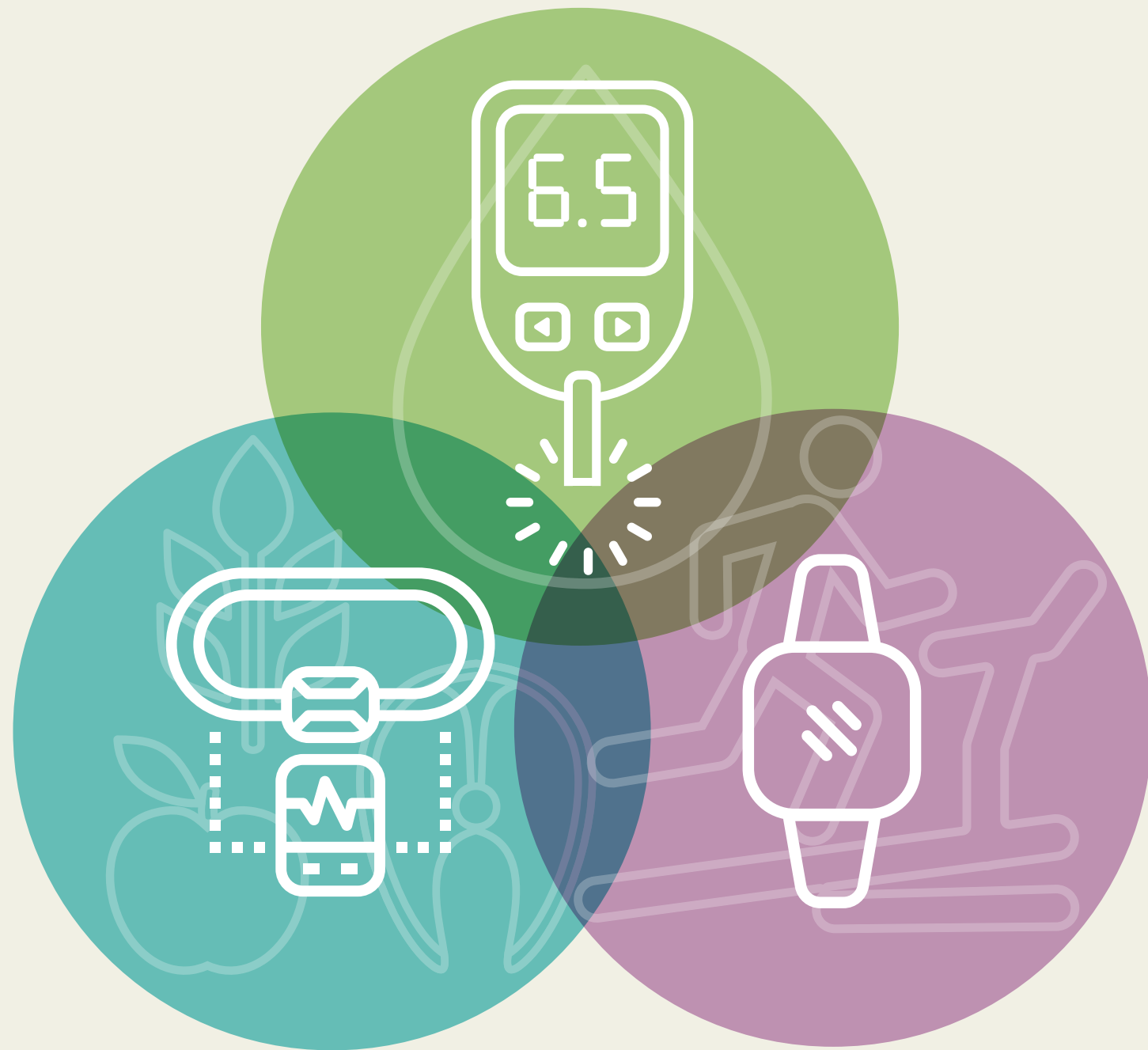
November 2018



**Employers are well aware of the costs associated with diabetes in their employee and dependent populations. They continue to indicate that this is a top concern and are increasingly aware of the links between diabetes and other chronic and debilitating health conditions.**

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**The market for digital diabetes prevention and management solutions has continued to mature since the publication of the **Northeast Business Group on Health's 2016 guide**. Since then, some tools have been enhanced with additional features, new solutions have entered the market and others have been acquired or left the market.**

**As employers refine the mix of programs and benefit strategies they offer their employees, NEBGH has developed this updated guide to reflect changes in the market and profile a current set of digital solutions available to employers in their efforts to help employees prevent and manage diabetes.**

# Introduction

Northeast Business Group on Health has tracked the rapid evolution in digital diabetes prevention and management solutions through two recent reports:

Our May 2015 Solutions Center report, “Transforming Diabetes Management: New Directions for Employers” pointed to a number of new innovative approaches to workplace diabetes interventions that included digital solutions.

Our March 2016 follow-up, “Digital Diabetes Prevention and Management Solutions,” was the result of a detailed market scan, and offered a guide to digital diabetes solutions then on the market along with their specific capabilities, distribution channels, and pricing.

Based on member interest, NEBGH has now completed a second market scan and offers here our updated enumeration of digital diabetes solutions currently on the market. This guide is intended to serve as a useful entry point into this arena for employers and the solutions detailed here are intended to complement existing diabetes healthcare benefits and programs.

The solutions highlighted here are intended to assist people with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. While 95% of diabetes cases in the United States are Type 2, and only 5% are diagnosed as Type 1<sup>1</sup>, this smaller subset should not be overlooked as 75-80% of those diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes are adults and therefore likely to be in the workforce.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Statistics about Diabetes* — American Diabetes Association: <http://www.diabetes.org/diabetes-basics/statistics/>

<sup>2</sup> *The Prevalence of Type 1 Diabetes in the United States* — U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4562437/>

## Diabetes is increasingly common

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 30 million people in the U.S., or roughly one in 10, have diabetes. Of those, 25% do not know they have diabetes. An additional 80 million people have prediabetes, in which blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. Prediabetes puts a person at increased risk of developing Type 2 diabetes<sup>1</sup>, heart disease and stroke.<sup>2</sup> Every year, roughly 5–10% of people with prediabetes go on to develop diabetes.<sup>3</sup> A person with prediabetes can cut his or her diabetes risk in half by losing weight and increasing physical activity;<sup>4</sup> sadly nine out of 10 people don’t know they have prediabetes and therefore may not make the lifestyle changes they need.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *More than 100 million Americans have diabetes or prediabetes* — Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2017/p0718-diabetes-report.html>

<sup>2</sup> *The Surprising Truth About Prediabetes* — CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/features/diabetesprevention/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> *Prediabetes: A high-risk state for developing diabetes* — U.S. National Library of Medicine, NIH: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3891203/>

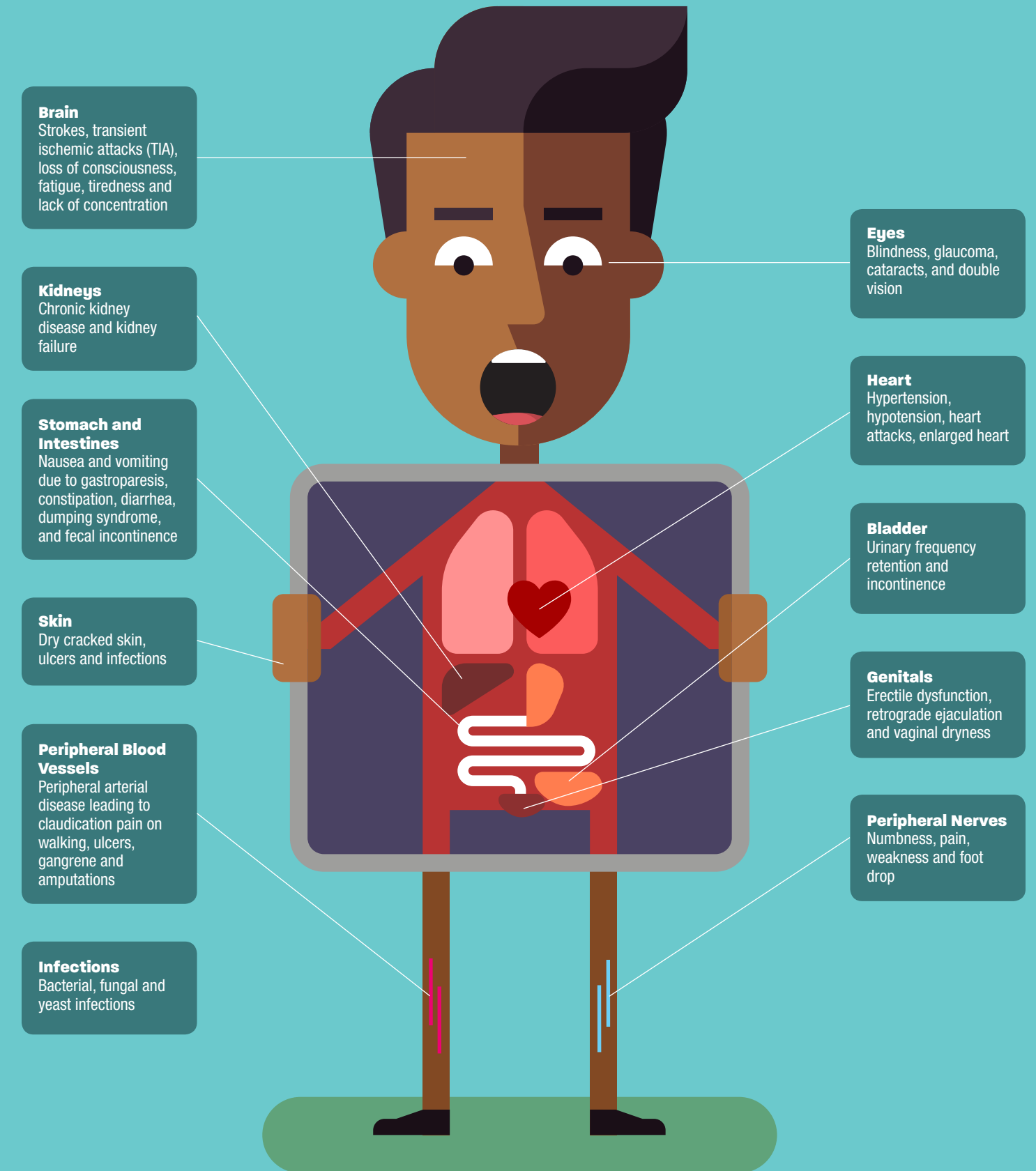
<sup>4</sup> *Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study* — The Lancet: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(12\)60525-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(12)60525-X/fulltext)

<sup>5</sup> *National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2017, page 7* — CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pdfs/data/statistics/national-diabetes-statistics-report.pdf>

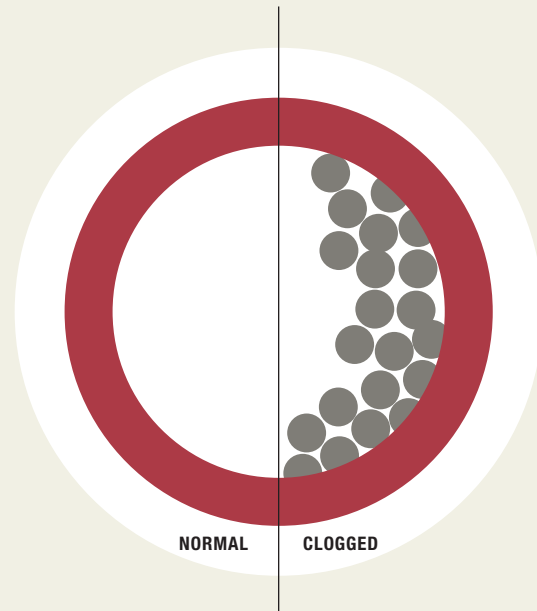
# Diabetes Affects Multiple Systems in the Body

In Type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance occurs when the muscles and liver that normally take up blood sugar and use it for energy begin to lose their sensitivity to the hormone insulin. The pancreas' insulin-making beta cells then respond by producing more and more insulin. Even though insulin levels may increase, the amount is not sufficient to prevent blood sugar levels from rising. This high blood sugar level adversely affects blood vessels all over the body, causing complications.

As the diagram on the next page shows, elevated blood sugar levels for prolonged periods can severely damage the eyes, kidneys, nerves, and other body parts, cause sexual problems and increases the risk of heart attack and stroke.



Diabetes causes plaque buildup that can clog arteries, **leading to a heart attack or stroke.**



If you have diabetes, you are up to **four times more likely to develop heart disease.**



Heart disease is the **No. 1 cause of death** in adults with type 2 diabetes.



In adults with type 2 diabetes, **2 out of 3 deaths are caused by heart disease.**

Source: [Diabetes & your heart: What's the connection?](#) — Boehringer-Ingelheim: <https://www.foryoursweetheart.com/>

## Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease

Over time, high blood sugar leads to a buildup of plaque in the arteries. This buildup can harden and narrow blood vessels, reducing the flow of oxygenated blood to the heart. As a result, people with diabetes are more likely to develop heart problems than those who do not have diabetes. In fact, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in people with Type 2 diabetes [globally](#).<sup>1,2</sup>

## Keeping the Complications of Diabetes at Bay

The complications associated with diabetes are not inevitable and can be kept at bay and even prevented by maintaining strong control of blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol. Eating healthy foods, not smoking, significantly limiting alcohol consumption and incorporating regular activity into a daily routine can help keep blood sugar levels within recommended limits. Technology that supports tracking blood glucose levels, weight, diet and activity, while also prompting medication adherence and developing supportive social networks, can be invaluable.

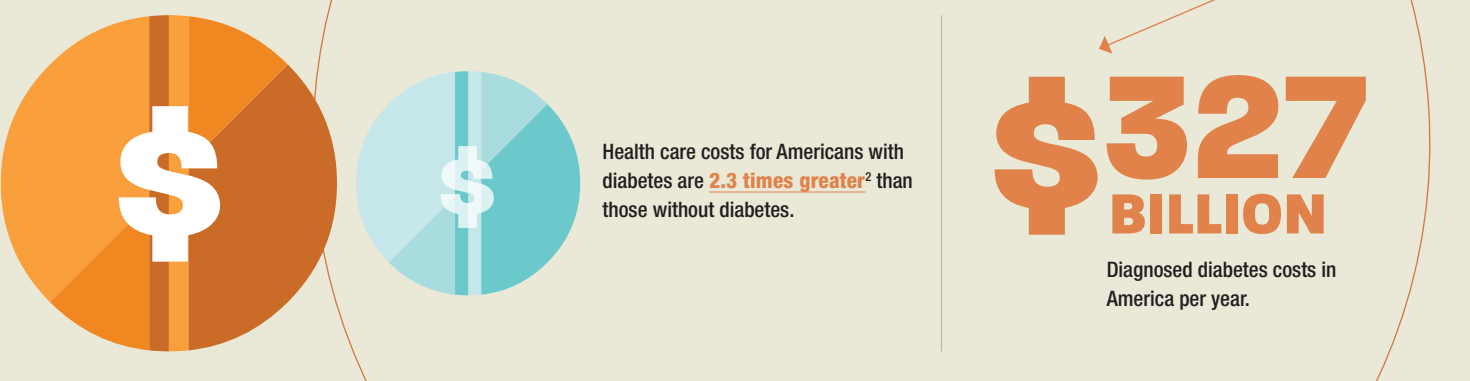
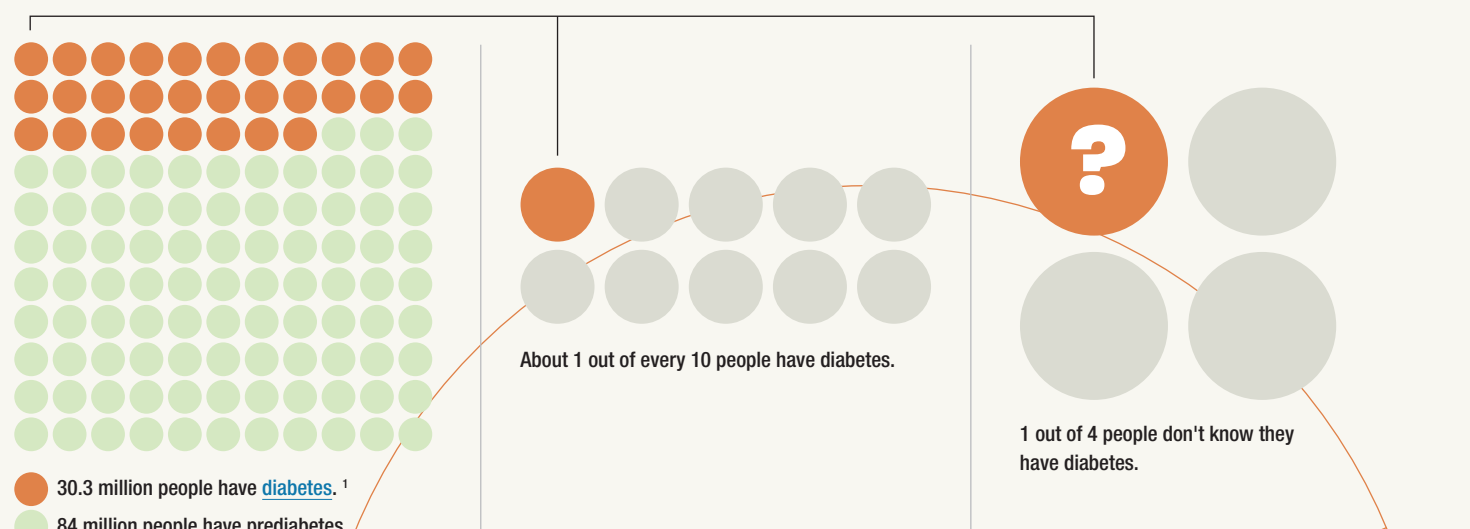


**Technology that supports tracking blood glucose levels, weight, diet and activity, while also prompting medication adherence and developing supportive social networks, can be invaluable.**



<sup>1</sup> *Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes* — American Heart Association: <http://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/diabetes/why-diabetes-matters/cardiovascular-disease--diabetes>

<sup>2</sup> *Peripheral Artery Disease and Diabetes* — AHA: <http://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/diabetes/why-diabetes-matters/peripheral-artery-disease--diabetes>



The CDC has developed a tool to help **calculate the total cost of diabetes to your business**

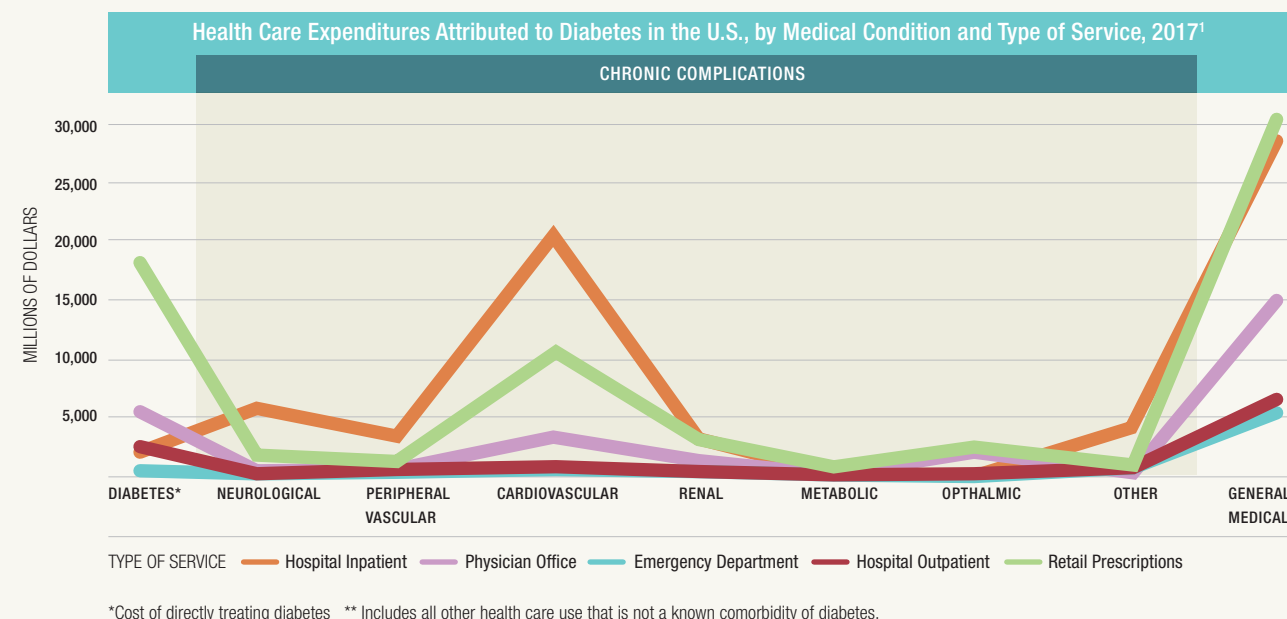
<https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/diabetesatwork/plan/costs.html>

Risk of death for adults with diabetes is **50% greater** than for adults without diabetes.

## The Cost of Diabetes

The CDC estimates that the medical expenditures of a person with diabetes are approximately 2.3 times the expected medical expenditures of a person without **diabetes**.<sup>1</sup>

The American Diabetes Association provides the following breakdown of the costs of diabetes and associated chronic **conditions**:<sup>1</sup>



In addition to increased medical costs, diabetes also costs employers indirectly through absenteeism, lost productivity and disability. According to the CDC, the productivity and absenteeism-related costs of diabetes is as **follows**:<sup>1</sup>

Of the \$327 billion determined to be the economic cost of diagnosed diabetes in 2017, \$90 billion is allocated to indirect costs, including:



<sup>1</sup> A Snapshot: Diabetes in the United States — CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pdfs/library/socialmedia/diabetes-infographic.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The Cost of Diabetes — ADA: <http://www.diabetes.org/advocacy/news-events/cost-of-diabetes.html>

<sup>1</sup> Economic Costs of Diabetes in the U.S. in 2017 — <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/diabetesatwork/plan/costs.html>

# Challenges Addressed by Digital Health Solutions

Digital health tools in general seek to address challenges common to a range of chronic illnesses such as diabetes. They include:

## Employee/Patient Engagement

Features such as personalization, tracking, habit creation, socialization and gamification appeal to specific patient characteristics and can increase engagement.

## Collaboration

Person-centered, team-based collaboration is more easily facilitated in a digital setting among users, clinicians, peers, coaches and other caregivers.

## Behavior Change

Information, guidance and support delivered conveniently and consistently can help users sustain behavior changes.

*Overcoming these challenges can lead to:*

## Better Outcomes

Digital health tools hold the promise of improved health outcomes and reduced healthcare expenses through improved engagement, better collaboration and sustained behavior change. Several studies have been published showing the benefit of digital health [platforms](#).<sup>1</sup>

Employers have seen this promise borne out through implementation of digital solutions.

But digital diabetes solutions are not a panacea. Obstacles that employers need to address through planning and learning from other employers that have successfully implemented these tools include:

- Difficulty of recruitment and enrollment
- Lack of sustained employee engagement
- Lack of integration with other health initiatives
- Cost of deployment of digital solutions
- Burden of organizational approval process for adding or integrating new IT services

## *Suggested solutions to implementation challenges:*

- Employers can make use of relevant workplace opportunities such as wellness events or annual health risk assessments to educate employees about digital diabetes prevention and management tools and encourage enrollment.
- Employers can appoint employee ambassadors who can speak to the value of a digital diabetes solution; these ambassadors can be an invaluable resource.
- Employers can encourage engagement by incentivizing regular and sustained use of a digital diabetes tool.
- Many of the tools listed in this report offer a variety of integrations with other health initiatives, leverage these.
- Many of the tools listed in this report offer branded marketing campaigns, various employee on-boarding strategies, and are willing to put a portion of their fees at risk, dependent on meeting certain health outcomes or engagement goals.

<sup>1</sup> Using Digital Health Technology to Prevent and Treat Diabetes — U.S. National Library of Medicine, NIH: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4761854/>



# How Digital Health Solutions Can Make a Difference

## Convenience

Digital tools and solutions can meet people where they are, untethering them from a doctor's office, weigh-in session, or desk, to communicate and/or log and track information. Data and reminders can be provided just in time to deliver actionable support to users precisely when they need it. Peers, coaches and care providers can collaborate conveniently through messaging, social networks and video conferencing. In 2016, more people accessed the web from mobile devices than they did from desktops or [notebooks](#),<sup>1</sup> so it makes sense to provide solutions via mobile devices.

## Personalization

Artificial intelligence and supporting algorithms enable information, guidance and support to be tailored specifically to a user's biometrics, psychographics, relationships and behaviors to create a unique experience.

## Data Collection & Management

Capturing clinical and psychosocial data continuously can allow for seamless tracking and analysis by connected users, peers, coaches and care teams. Data can be collected in multiple ways based on the capabilities of tools, solutions and user preferences. Wearables such as activity trackers, blood pressure cuffs or continuous glucose monitoring pumps can seamlessly capture and upload data into the cloud. Other information such as diet and mood can be entered manually by the user.

Automatic displays of customized information can allow users to better understand trends and analyze the effects of behavior change on their health. For people who require insulin for their disease — those with Type 1 diabetes and up to 30% of those with [Type 2 diabetes](#)<sup>2</sup> — the use of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) has become increasingly common, and has led to better glucose control and reduced risks of hypoglycemia. Some digital tools now include CGM to assist with disease management and tracking. However, a recent Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute [study](#)<sup>3</sup> indicates that for the 75% of patients living with type 2 diabetes who do not use insulin, self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) increases costs and may not lead to improved health outcomes. There is also an increased cost associated with SMBG.

<sup>1</sup> Mobile and tablet internet usage exceeds desktop for first time worldwide:  
<http://gs.statcounter.com/press/mobile-and-tablet-internet-usage-exceeds-desktop-for-first-time-worldwide>

<sup>2</sup> Age-Adjusted Percentage of Adults with Diabetes Using Diabetes Medication — CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/statistics/meduse/fig2.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pcori.org/sites/default/files/Donahue018-Final-Research-Report.pdf>

## Behavioral Economics

With the increasing amount of real-time data available from connected devices and continuous data entry, digital tools and solutions can serve as a vehicle to deliver more customized rewards and incentives to drive engagement. These economic incentives can be linked to healthcare premium discounts, for example, and can act as a catalyst for improved overall diabetes and health management.

## Coaching

Digital tools and solutions can provide more opportunities for two-way communication than ever before. Programs may provide feedback and support through automated coaching and artificial intelligence or provide access to registered dietitians, certified diabetes educators, nurses or other qualified health professionals on an individual or group basis. Users have the opportunity to conveniently develop a trusted relationship with a coach and be more successful in their own self-management.

## Socialization

Many digital tools and solutions engage people beyond an individual user and his or her coach by connecting them to a social network of people with similar health goals. Tools and solutions can provide social communities through private networks that allow them to share activities, goals and progress. Within some tools and solutions, users can permit friends and family to view and respond to their progress. Peer support, empathy and encouragement can increase self-efficacy and likelihood of sustained behavior change.

## Supporting Advanced Primary Care

Within a rapidly transforming delivery system, many patients can begin to receive care from primary care providers incentivized on the value of delivery rather than the volume of services delivered. Digital tools and solutions can support both patients and doctors through this change via real-time monitoring of conditions, communications and support. Poor health indicators can be caught and addressed before an adverse event occurs, serving as an opportunity for early intervention to prevent behavioral and physical health relapses.

## Integration with Employers' Technology

Many employers have a company-wide intranet and may have implemented other digital solutions that support benefits programs, wellbeing programs, financial health and social networks. Digital tools are increasingly able to integrate and share data with these existing systems, allowing a seamless experience for employees and maximized engagement with benefits and health intervention opportunities. This leads to healthier employees who appreciate what their employer is providing for them.

# What Do We Want from a Digital Diabetes Solution?

**Diabetes solutions need to provide a simple interface that seamlessly helps users prevent or optimally manage their diabetes.**

**Improved user experience over time:** The perfect tool learns from experience, adjusts for the one-off situations that are so common to everyday life, and alerts the user so action can be taken before something goes wrong.

**Education:** It is a tool that provides personalized guidance and access to the most up-to-date and scientifically vetted information on diabetes prevention and management.

**Improved Health:** By connecting directly to blood glucose meters and other health tracking devices, the tool can build healthy habits and treatment compliance.

**Real-Time Connection to User's Care Team:** The most effective tool can also provide the ability to keep a user's healthcare providers informed and offer connection to coaches, support groups, friends and family.

**Interoperability with Other Digital Systems:** In a perfect world, all solutions offered by an employer would be fully integrated with each other for maximum efficiency and ease of use.

**Cost Savings:** The perfect tool would also save time and money.

## The Future is Almost Here

While the perfect tool isn't available today, several that are available can perform many of the functions described above.

Technology is constantly evolving: by connecting sensors, wearables and apps, it is increasingly possible to pool and leverage data in innovative ways to provide timely interventions so that people with diabetes can be truly independent and effectively self-manage their care.

**Consider the following hypothetical scenario:** A person with diabetes enters a restaurant where a GPS sensor identifies the location, reviews the menu and proposes the best choices based on caloric and carbohydrate content. The technology also proposes and delivers a rapidly acting insulin bolus dose based on the person's exercise level that day and prior experiences when eating similar meals.

# Digital Tools

## HOW TO USE THE TABLE

Employers can use the enclosed table as a sample of notable digital diabetes tools and solutions and the features they offer. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of every diabetes or prediabetes management solution on the market. NEBGH has tried to capture those tools frequently mentioned by employers as being of interest, and those with employers as a primary target audience. Information in the table was collected through online marketing materials, a survey completed by a number of vendors, and follow up calls or emails to some vendors by NEBGH staff. If we didn't hear from vendors or information supplied was insufficient, unfortunately, we were unable to include them in this guide.

Note that some programs may have more capabilities than those indicated in the table.

The table is designed to help guide employers as they determine what digital features are most important in addressing the challenges they face with workplace diabetes programs, and to provide a starting point as they seek to identify solutions that match up accordingly. The following six pages include descriptions of the tools listed on the enclosed chart.



### Abacus Diabetes Care Rewards Program

<https://www.abacushealth.com/diabetes-program/>

With its provider-centric approach to care coordination, the Abacus Program seeks to close gaps in care. Its comprehensive diabetes management solution addresses:

- Provider engagement
- Medication management and adherence
- Behavior change and lifestyle modification
- Glucose monitoring

The Abacus Program leverages a patent pending behavior-based incentives program. Incentives are earned only by members actively engaged with the program and their providers.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### Betr Health

<https://betrhealth.com/>

Betr Health's patent pending methodology strives for balance between human touch and technology. The program's science-based approach is rooted in digestive health, lowering inflammation and insulin resistance. Each user is paired with:

- A Head Coach who helps remove a user's barriers to success and creates a tailored plan for the individual using proven methods
- A Lifestyle Implementation Specialist who fits Betr into user's time and budget.
- Daily guidance fits into user's food sensitivities and health goals. Betr Health believes there is no one-size-fits-all solution and helps individuals, regardless of their stage of life, fit the program into their lives from anywhere in the world.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes.

### Better Choices, Better Health

<https://www.canaryhealth.com/bcbh-better-choices-better-health/>

(Offered by Canary Health) Based on Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self-Management support curriculum, Better Choices, Better Health is a 6-week online small group workshop to help people living with chronic conditions to manage them better. Better Choices, Better Health partners with health plans, healthcare providers and employers to empower self-management with the digital tools, group support and coaching that put individuals back at the center of their health journey.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes.

### BlueStar

<https://www.welldoc.com/product/>

BlueStar is a fully integrated and automated solution supporting employees with diabetes, as well as hypertension and weight tracking challenges that so often accompany diabetes. A patented AI engine drives scalability and ease of implementation.

- Solution works off- and online, with or without internet/cellular connection.
- Meter-agnostic - integrates with J&J's LifeScan OneTouch Verio Flex® meter, or employee can enter data from any BG meter.
- Platform can scale to address diseases across the chronic disease domain with a single app user experience.
- Provides personalized, clinically precise feedback to users, in real-time, at the point of risk (messages validated by the FDA).
- Includes restaurant finder w carb counts, a barcode scanner and ability to take picture of food and identify carb count.

Note: The app is also available as the OneTouch Reveal® Plus brand through LifeScan, Inc., powered by BlueStar®. LifeScan is a partner of WellDoc, Inc., the makers of BlueStar®. Feature enhancements to BlueStar® are added to OneTouch Reveal® Plus in a phased approach.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### Cappa DPP

<https://cappahealth.com/>

Cappa DPP is a year long, high-touch virtual experience for National Diabetes Prevention Program participants. Users are assigned their own Registered Dietitian and are guided through interactive online video lessons using simple concepts to create lasting change. Users can easily journal their food and activity through Cappa's app or website.

Cappa's on-boarding & readiness interview processes can guarantee specific engagement or biometric outcomes are met. Cappa's Implementation Plan provides branded customer awareness campaigns, recruiting campaigns and qualifying processes for program candidates.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### Cornerstones4Care

<http://www.Cornerstones4Care.com>

Cornerstones4Care® is a support program that provides information, tools, and resources to help individuals manage their diabetes. Members receive benefits like calls from a diabetes educator and educational emails and can receive personalized support using the Cornerstones4Care® Powered by Glooko app to track blood sugar, activity, medicine, and meals all in one place.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### Dario Engage

<https://www.dariohealth.com/solutions/dario-engage/>

The Dario Engage Platform provides full coverage healthcare solutions that are easily customized to integrate with any clinical programs covering all facets of diabetes management and care: Type 1, Type 2, gestational diabetes, and prediabetes. Includes:

- Monitoring: Real-time data via smartphone-based meter, 100% data capture.
- Engagement: Personalized platform, mobile application, digital coaching and education, branded communities, and support.
- Management: Clinical program integration, automated processes, and reporting.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### Fit4D Diabetes Coaching Solution

<https://www.fit4d.com/>

Unlike apps or call centers, Fit4D strives to optimize the mix between humans and technology to deliver and improve measurable health outcomes in an affordable manner.

- Each person is paired with a Certified Diabetes Educator coach who teaches them how to manage and monitor their diabetes.
- Coaches work to break through medication adherence barriers and motivate healthy habits, and can identify situations where employees may need immediate support.
- To reduce the risk of diabetes complications, Fit4D focuses on helping patients improve adherence and control blood sugar, while reinforcing the importance of diabetes screenings to keep users on track.
- Employees can connect their data back to any of the 7,000+ providers who currently use the platform, ensuring continuity of care.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

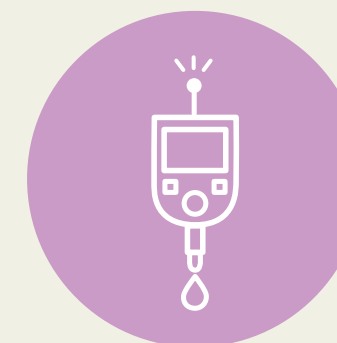
### Fruit Street Digital Diabetes Prevention Program

<http://www.fruitstreet.com/>

Fruit Street delivers the CDC's Diabetes Prevention Program via telemedicine. The telemedicine model allows Fruit Street to provide frequent (28 x's per year) and high quality engagement with registered dietitians. Program includes:

- Small group telehealth sessions via video conference or phone with registered dietitians.
- Wearable devices and dietary tracking in the Fruit Street mobile application.
- Support in lowering the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.
- Support in decreasing the risk of heart attack or stroke, & improving overall health and energy.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.



### Glooko — Diabetes Management Program

<https://www.glooko.com/employer/>

Glooko's ""Bring-Your-Own-Device"" diabetes management solution is flexible and compatible with over 95% of glucose meters, insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors.

- Sync glucose data to iOS or Android smartphone.
- Track medication, exercise, and food, and easily see that information on smartphone.
- Share data with care team.

For employers, Glooko offers Glooko Plus, a turnkey program which includes integrated coaching to provide personalized insights to employees and seeks to enhance engagement and outcomes by improving estimated A1C levels and increasing testing frequency.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### HabitNu DPP

<https://habitnu.com/>

HabitNu DPP delivers the in-person Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) and was developed for both virtual and in-person delivery. Program includes:

- Weekly group sessions with a lifestyle coach conducted through video chat or phone.
- A downloadable SmartApp containing a food diary, DPP curriculum delivered as short videos, and weight and exercise logs.
- Enhanced engagement: Participants motivate each other and chat with lifestyle coach through a secure online chat forum.
- Coaches monitor the participants through Admin dashboard - the platform alerts coaches when a participant slips.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### HealthSlate

<http://healthslate.com/index.html>

HealthSlate helps people with diabetes to develop and stick with healthy habits that can help them lose weight and reduce the risk of chronic disease. Combining expertise in consumer behavior, mobile technology and evidenced-based medicine, HealthSlate improves patients' quality of life and health outcomes. Program details:

- Includes the tools and personal coaching needed to make lasting change.
- Individuals choose whatever approach they prefer: phone calls, mobile app, website, or Alexa.
- Users do not need to give up their favorite foods, write down everything they eat, or visit a clinic or classroom.
- Highly individualized programs of education, behavior modification and clinical support.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing prediabetes, Type 2 Diabetes

### Lark

<https://www.web.lark.com/>

An infinitely scalable and clinically validated diabetes control platform with 24/7 unlimited one-on-one counseling, powered by a combination of A.I. with behavior change design through Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Lark helps users eat more healthfully, become more active, lose weight, improve their sleep, and manage their stress, all the while guiding them toward a better understanding of how these wellness elements will help them prevent diabetes.

- Lark Coaches are trained to coach members with programs unique to Diabetes, Hypertension, and Prediabetes.
- Lark Coaches connect users with clinical resources while sharing relevant data such as glucose levels, activity, medication adherence, and nutrition in real-time.
- Lark coaches text refill suggestions and fulfill orders in the app.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### Livongo for Diabetes, Livongo for DPP

<https://www.livongo.com/>

Livongo is a catalyst for behavior change that uses personalized health insights to treat pre-diabetes, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Livongo utilizes a cellular enabled meter to obtain real-time data from members. Investment in data science allows Livongo to analyze this real-time data and other information on members to deliver a personalized experience. Livongo coaches are Certified Diabetes Educators (CDE's) who specialize in behavior change and Diabetes Lifestyle management. Livongo offers unlimited diabetes test strips for members, removing a big barrier from successful diabetes management.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### mySugr

<https://mysugr.com/>

mySugr is app-based, all-around care for people with diabetes — made by people with diabetes (the majority of mySugr's founders have diabetes themselves.). The mySugr Bundle offers unlimited test strips, an Accu-Chek® Guide meter, the mySugr app and diabetes advice available anytime anywhere. mySugr leverages an app-based patient interface for smart tracking, integrated devices for seamless transfer of health data, care management with Certified Diabetes Educators and digital population health management using a risk stratification platform.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### One Drop

<https://onedrop.today/>

One Drop | Mobile empowers user to track and analyze all their diabetes data — glucose, medications, food, and activity — with just one app. One Drop | Chrome is a Bluetooth blood glucose monitor that syncs with the One Drop | Mobile app. Get all the test strips you need with a One Drop | Premium or One Drop | Plus subscription. One Drop | Experts is a personal diabetes coaching program designed to help user reach their health goals. Work with a CDE available 24/7 to get support in real time.

- Easily schedule medication reminders, track A1c and weight, view statistics and set goals.
- Provide and receive support from other users, get tips and advice to help with daily diabetes management.
- Sync blood glucose, fitness, nutrition, and other health data from thousands of apps and devices.
- Automated Decision Support via proprietary AI to generate blood glucose predictions and actionable insights for mobile users.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers.

### PlateJoy Diabetes Prevention

<https://www.platejoy.com/>

PlateJoy is a digital Diabetes Prevention Program that focuses on healthy eating, through personalized meal plans tailored to over 50 different data points about each individual participant. Users receive custom recipes and shopping lists designed to reduce the number of food decisions made each day. Ingredient delivery is also available in over 250 cities. The program also includes live coach support, a wireless scale and activity tracker.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing prediabetes.

### Real Appeal

<https://realappeal.com/>

Real Appeal is a convenient year-long weight-loss program, based on clinical science and proven methods to combat diabetes, and accessible 365 days a year, 24 hours a day through desktop, mobile or tablet. The program may be covered at no additional cost by user's health insurance plan. Includes:

- Up to a year of support from a Transformation Coach with customized plan that fits the user's needs, preferences and goals.
- 24/7 access to digital tools and dashboards that help track user's food, activity and weight.
- A Success Kit with fitness guides, recipe book, digital scale, resistance band, workout DVDs, and more.
- Support from weekly online group classes where users can share ideas and learn from each other.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### SocialDiabetes

<https://www.socialdiabetes.com/en/>

SocialDiabetes is a free app for diabetes management available on both Android and Apple devices. Developed by a Type 1 diabetes patient, the app provides a bolus dose recommendation before each meal. App includes:

- Ability to count carbs, adjust insulin doses and improve blood sugar levels.
- Ability to share records with healthcare professional in real time.
- Universal connectivity to glucose monitors.
- Social network coming soon.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.



### Solera4me (Solera Network)

<https://www.solera4me.com/>

Solera solves for "program fatigue" engagement, pay for performance and outcomes transparency as the managed services organization for a curated network of community organizations and digital apps. Solera connects individuals to the "best fit" intervention based on their unique goals, needs and preferences, driving engagement and outcomes. Solera submits medical claims to the health plan for services provided by our network partners. Solera is HITRUST certified and is fully delegated by the plan to administer diabetes prevention and management programs through an integrated network model. Solera is responsible for engagement and connection to a curated and actively managed national network of community organizations and digital solutions, bridging care from the clinic to the community.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes.

### The Omada Program

<https://www.omadahealth.com/>

Omada is a digital behavior change program that can help users lose weight, reduce the risk for chronic disease, and feel better. The program tracks user's weight, food, and activity to uncover previously unrecognized habits and opportunities for change.

- No counting calories or weighing portions - users take smartphone pictures of meals and enter brief descriptions.
- Users can track steps with smartphone or wearable device and weight with a scale that automatically syncs with user's account.
- Based on user's engagement and data science, user's Omada health coach provides support and guidance.
- Weekly interactive lessons prompt users to rethink what they know about food, activity, sleep and stress.
- New offering combines type 2 diabetes plus hypertension self-management.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 2 Diabetes.

### Transform DPP

<https://www.blumesahealth.com/>

Based on the CDC's National Diabetes Prevention Program, Blue Mesa Health's Transform DPP provides remote, tailored diabetes prevention programs to employees, and covered individuals with prediabetes. The program includes:

- Wireless scale and activity tracker for monitoring progress.
- Private peer community moderated by a coach.
- Smartphone app as hub for communication, curriculum and tracking.
- Tailored to 6 languages w dedicated culturally specific programs for different user groups (Hispanic, Cantonese, low literacy, etc.).

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes; Providers/ Care Managers.

### Vida Health

<https://www.vida.com/enterprise/>

Vida provides continuous care to help people tackle the root cause of their diabetes. Users select a personal coach based on personality, coaching style, and expertise and receive weekly audio/video consults and regular messaging support via the Vida app. Evidence-based content is tailored to each participant based on disease severity, unique interests, and self-reported barriers.

- Advanced analytics & machine learning optimize user experience, engagement, behavior change, and clinical outcomes.
- Support for multiple conditions / users with co-morbidities.
- Device agnostic — users can keep preferred devices or Vida can provide best-in-class devices with free test strips for the duration of the program.
- Platform content is appropriate for all health and technology literacy levels.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes.

### Virta Health

<https://www.virtahealth.com/>

Virta strives for type 2 diabetes reversal. Virta also seeks to improve other chronic conditions associated with diabetes such as inflammation and liver function.

- A metabolic health specialist provides continuous medical supervision, check-ups, and safe medication reductions.
- Measuring blood glucose, ketones, weight, and more helps personalize the Virta Treatment to individual's biochemistry.
- A nutrition and behavior expert answers user's questions, helps form habits, and keeps user accountable.
- Virta's mobile and desktop app provides immediate access to care.
- Users learn from a structured online curriculum, can access library of recipes, guides, and meal plans for any dietary preference
- Users can connect with other Virta patients to find support and share tips in a positive, moderated environment.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 2 Diabetes; Providers/Care Managers; Friends & Family.

### Virtual Lifestyle Management service (VLM)

<https://www.canaryhealth.com/vlm-virtual-lifestyle-management/>

(Offered by Canary Health.) Developed by Stanford University's Patient Education Research Center, Canary Health's Virtual Lifestyle Management is not a diet, it's a lifestyle self-management program for lasting change. VLM empowers participants to commit to and make small changes over the course of 1 year that can help lower A1C, keep weight off for the long-term and improve overall health and well-being. Program includes:

- 16 weekly, followed by 8 monthly self-guided lessons with 24/7 group support.
- A tailored experience designed to fit individual's lifestyle and personal health goals.
- Proactive coaching from trained health coaches in a private and secure environment.
- Pedometer, digital scale, tracking tools, fat counter book and offline technical support.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes, Type 2 Diabetes.

### Yes Health All-Mobile Diabetes Prevention Program

<https://www.yeshealth.com/>

The Yes Health program is based on proven science from the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) trial, Stanford Persuasive Technology Lab and other leading organizations. The program provides:

- A personalized plan with easy progress tracking to help users meet their goals.
- In-the-moment, asynchronous, mobile coaching by certified nutritionists, licensed fitness trainers, and wellbeing diabetes-prevention experts (no coach appointments needed online or offline).
- Familiar mobile hot triggers such as picture taking, calendaring and texting.
- Scalable high touch member experience via CRM coach dashboard and rules-based data automation engines leading to a high coach-to-member care ratio.

**IDEAL USER** — Individual managing weight, prediabetes; Providers/ Care Managers.



## Glucose Monitors with Associated Apps

The Digital Tools chart accompanying this report contains a selection of diabetes prevention and management tools currently marketed directly to employers that offer a variety of features that may also integrate with existing blood glucose monitors on the market.

By contrast, the following list details a number of blood glucose monitors that have developed associated digital apps to enhance the user experience with their particular meter and may also offer additional features.

### Contour Next One Smart Meter and Contour Diabetes App

By integrating your blood glucose (BG) meter with a smartphone app you can simplify the management of your diabetes. BG results captured throughout the day can be automatically synced and logged. And over time, your results may create meaningful insights into how your activities affect your BG levels, which can help improve your understanding of your diabetes. All the while being on the same platform you use for so many other aspects of your life — your smartphone.

### Dexcom G6 Continuous Glucose Monitoring System

The Dexcom G6 CGM is FDA-permitted to make diabetes treatment decisions without confirmatory fingersticks or calibration. Includes a small sensor worn under the skin, a transmitter, and a smartphone app. Always know your number with just a quick glance at your smart device. Trend lines show you where your glucose levels are heading and how fast they're getting there, so you can take action. Dexcom CGM is proven to lower A1C and reduce hypoglycemic incidents.

### Fora TN'G (Test N'Go) Voice Blood Glucose Meter (Bluetooth 4.0 & Free App)

The meter is designed to guide the user through testing instructions and will speak the final results to the user. App allows user to log activities and provides graphic data analysis to allow for seamless diabetes management and monitoring.

### GlucoMe Blood Glucose Monitor & GlucoMe Mobile App

The wireless GlucoMe Blood Glucose Monitor measures and seamlessly communicates blood glucose data to any iOS or Android mobile device. With no wires or complex communication protocols, reliable ongoing health information is immediately available to patients and caregivers via the GlucoMe Mobile App and to medical professionals via GlucoMe's cloud-based Digital Diabetes Clinic.

### Guardian Connect CGM & Sugar.IQ & Guardian Sensor 3 & Guardian Connect Transmitter

The new Sugar.IQ™ diabetes assistant works exclusively with Guardian™ Connect CGM. Using the same supercomputer technology that can predict global weather patterns, the Sugar.IQ™ assistant continually analyzes everything that can affect your glucose<sup>1</sup> levels.

### iHealth Smart Wireless Gluco-Monitoring and nor Gluco-Monitoring

iHealth Smart takes readings like you're used to with an old glucometer, but adds a digital twist. Its app becomes your digital logbook that presents your data in simple and easy to understand ways such as color-coded data, charts, and graphs.

### MyGluco Smart Glucose Meter & Bewell Connect App

MyGluco is a smart glucose meter used to measure blood sugar levels and Hba1c which can help you detect hyperglycemia. Data syncs directly to your iOS or Android device in the BewellConnect app.

### OneTouch Verio Flex Meter & OneTouch Reveal App

Together, the OneTouch Verio Flex® meter and the OneTouch Reveal® app change the way you see your blood sugar.

- App draws a timeline of important blood sugar events, highlighting when you have been repeatedly out of range.
- Transforms data into quick visual snapshots that connect your blood sugar with food, insulin, and activity.
- Works together with your OneTouch Verio Flex® meter so you have the information you need, when you need it
- See and share your progress with your family, friends, or your trusted care network.

### Smart Meter's iGlucose Diabetes Management Solution

The iGlucose solution uses cell-enabled technology to automatically transmit real-time blood glucose results, enabling the proactive management of diabetes so that healthcare professionals can make better clinical decisions, while saving time and money.

### Tru Metrix Air & Tru Manager Air App

Bluetooth® Smart Connectivity, No coding, As Fast as 4 Seconds, Tiny 0.5 microliter sample size, Alternate site testing, Store 1000 results with time/date, 7-, 14-, 30-, 60-, and 90- day averaging, Event tagging, 4 testing reminder alarms, Audible fill detection, Control Detection, Ketone test reminder, Strip release button, Download capabilities.

# Innovative/Unique Digital Diabetes Solutions

The following digital solutions are outside the scope of the main set of tools we researched. Still, they offer unique solutions that may be of interest to some employers. The following descriptions are from the providers.

## Proteus Discover

Proteus Discover is comprised of ingestible sensors, a small wearable sensor patch, an application on a mobile device and a provider portal. Once activated, Proteus Discover unlocks never-before-seen insight into patient health patterns and medication treatment effectiveness, leading to more informed healthcare decisions for everyone involved.

Where can Proteus Discover make the biggest impact? With high-risk populations, including patients with hypertension and diabetes. In a recent study, patients with uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes who used Proteus Discover achieved significantly greater reduction in blood pressure and LDL cholesterol, and were more likely to reach their BP goal than usual care without Proteus Discover.

## BlueLoop

BlueLoop is the one and only tool that allows kids and their caregivers to log and share diabetes information – both online and with the app – in real time, via instant e-mail and text message, giving peace of mind to parents, more class time for students and fewer phone calls and paper logs for school nurses. Online, parents can share real-time BG logs with their clinicians, who can see logs (in the format they prefer), current dosages and reports, all in one place.

Our insulin calculator provides accurate and consistent dosing information between multiple caregivers both at home and at school. This precise dosing and documentation will aid providers in insulin dose adjustments to improve clinical outcomes.

# DIY Diabetes Technology

While digital diabetes solutions are constantly improving, there is still a gap between what people with diabetes need and what is available on the market. Some frustrated diabetes patients have chosen to take matters into their own hands.

**Please note that while some of the solutions that innovators have developed have gained a dedicated following, they are considered experimental and have not been officially tested or approved for therapy.**

Dana Lewis is the creator of #DIYPS, the Do-It-Yourself Pancreas System, and a founder of the #OpenAPS movement. In May of 2016, she published an article describing her experience with the mainstream market technology she had been using to manage her Type 1 diabetes – she was always worried about monitoring her blood sugar levels at night and whether the alarm on her current system would successfully wake her up. The article below describes what she – and several other coders and diabetes sufferers – did to come up with a solution of their own, using a technique that has come to be known as ‘looping’:

[How I designed a “DIY” closed loop artificial pancreas](#)

The work of Lewis and other diabetes patients-turned-innovators has resulted in a number of DIY solutions that as many as 2,000 frustrated diabetes sufferers currently use at their own risk:

[The \\$250 Biohack That’s Revolutionizing Life With Diabetes](#)

The NEBGH will watch these technologies and update members as these emerge into the mainstream.

## A Few DIY Digital Diabetes Solutions

Some of the DIY solutions that have emerged from the work of diabetes patients-turned-innovators:

[Loop](#)<sup>1</sup>

[Spike](#)<sup>2</sup>

[Nightscout](#)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Loop – <https://loopkit.github.io/loopdocs/>

<sup>2</sup> Spike – <https://spike-app.com/#>

<sup>3</sup> Nightscout – <http://www.nightscout.info/>



# Thinking of Implementing a Digital Tool for your Employees with Diabetes?

## Here's what you'll need to consider

### What is it you want to achieve?

- Improve the health of employees and family members with pre-diabetes or diabetes?
- Minimize medical expenditures relating to diabetes?
- Improve employee engagement in their health, especially relating to diabetes?
- Raise awareness on diabetes, the risks and ways of preventing and managing the condition?
- Are there any challenges to access to a digital solution?
- What languages are needed?

### How much are you willing to pay?

- What pay structure do you envision?
- Per employee per month fee for all eligible employees? Or just for employees enrolled in the digital solution?
- Pay for performance, based on desired health outcomes or engagement goals?
- Will employees share the cost?

### Integration, marketing and engagement?

- How will the digital solution compliment existing resources for diabetes?
- How will a digital solution be marketed to employees? Family members?
- Are there any groups of employees who may be at higher risk who need to be targeted?
- What are some HIPAA-compliant ways you can reach your employees with diabetes for a successful rollout of a new benefit targeted to them?
- Do you want to incentivize employees to use and adhere to using the digital solution?
- Return on investment in the digital solution of your choice?
- Decreased medical expenditures relating to diabetes?
- Reduction in health risks (obesity, physical activity, nutrition etc.)?
- Reach of and sustained engagement with the digital solution?
- Employee feedback on the digital solution?

### Company IT and access considerations

- What are the data privacy considerations for each country in which the digital solution will be launched?
- What IT approval process is required?

## About NEBGH

Northeast Business Group on Health (NEBGH) is an employer-led coalition of healthcare leaders and other stakeholders. We empower our members to drive excellence in health and achieve the highest value in healthcare delivery and the consumer experience.

Our Solutions Center delivers information, education and guidance for employers on managing high-cost health conditions and improving employee population health and wellbeing.

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