

Access to medical technologies and services during the COVID-19 pandemic

Update from the diabetes medical technology sector - April 2020

We are living in unprecedented times. The functioning of our social and health systems are being challenged to an extent rarely seen before. We want to share an update with the diabetes community on what we are doing as diabetes technology companies and address some important questions we are receiving.

In these difficult months, where severe confinement measures have been put in place to contain the spread of COVID-19, we are committed to do the utmost possible to ease the challenges that people with diabetes might be facing.

Supply chains are currently solid

Across the 9 major companies representing this group, the supply of medical technologies for diabetes continues without major disruption. We have seen a spike in demand for disposable items related to diabetes. These spikes are not high enough to disrupt supply and give no cause for concern. Products can be used as normal. There is no need to stockpile. Regular testing and treatment should be continued as per the direction of your care teams.

We are constantly monitoring the situation on the ground. Despite certain challenges such as lockdowns, limited air freight availability and export/import restrictions, the diabetes community can rest assured that there are enough stocks at this time. The production of medical technology will continue, supporting the diabetes community through this crisis.

Service delivery is adapting to the virtual space

Countries are implementing social distancing measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. As a consequence, we see the diabetes community adapting the delivery of diabetes support and care by moving to virtual spaces where possible. For example, we saw a major increase in teleconsultations in France, from less than 40,000 a month to 486,369 in March [article [here](#)].

We commit to supporting healthcare systems and medical staff in this digital transition, ensuring that our response is appropriate to local needs. We further commit to providing the diabetes community with digital solutions that can support self-management and remote care. People with diabetes need to rely more than ever on these approaches.



Access to diabetes care and services needs to be maintained

We recognize governments are being asked to balance difficult and competing priorities during this crisis. We ask that people with diabetes and their caregivers are given sufficient and appropriate support. Their lives depend on services, technologies and medicines being available and accessible. Critically, we need to see global and European trade corridors being open without distortion.

We will do our part in ensuring that life-saving treatments are getting to people with diabetes. We stand with this community during this difficult time, and if you any questions, please contact us.

Who we are

MedTech Europe's Diabetes Sector Group is the voice of medical technology companies operating to solve diabetes. We work on projects that serve the community and have a mandate to engage in longer-term action to halt, and perhaps in time reverse the diabetes pandemic.

