

Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs): Inpatient use

What does my nurse or caregiver need to know?

Some brands of continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) look similar to insulin pumps — especially tubeless insulin pumps. Your nurse will need to look at the device you are using so they can verify the placement, check the skin around the site, and determine that it is, in fact, a CGM.

Why do I need to have finger sticks when I have a CGM?

Even if you have a CGM, you need to have finger sticks when in the hospital because:

- **The accuracy of your CGM readings can be affected by illness, medications, childbirth, and changes in your physical condition.**
- **Blood samples are more accurate than the CGM during times of illness.** They better reflect the rapid changes in glucose levels that can occur during hospitalization. If your blood sugar is high or low, your healthcare team will need to base your treatment on results from finger sticks.

It's recommended that you take advantage of the finger sticks and readings on the hospital glucometer when calibrating your CGM. This will help your CGM readings to be more accurate and match hospital glucometer readings more closely.

Your nurse will also check the insertion site of your CGM every shift to be sure the skin and surrounding area look healthy.

Will I ever need to remove my CGM?

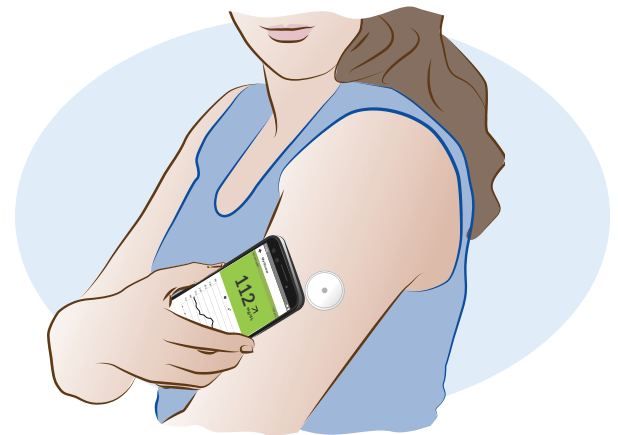
Typically, your CGM can remain in place while you are hospitalized. However, certain procedures (such as MRI or CT imaging tests) or surgeries may require that your CGM be removed for your safety. Your nurse or doctor will discuss this with you beforehand.



What is expected of me?

During your hospital stay, you will need to:

- Manage your CGM yourself, or have a family member who is always at your bedside help you manage your CGM.
- Provide all supplies for your CGM.
- Report any trends or high or low alerts to your nurse.



Questions for my doctor

Notes

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