

# Seeking Innovations in Glucose Monitoring for Better Diabetes Care

Diabetes UK is inviting researchers to propose ideas aimed at enhancing the implementation of glucose monitoring technologies in hospitals and care homes for individuals living with diabetes.

## In Hospitals:

The [Diabetes Research Steering Group \(DRSG\)](#) focussed on acute care has highlighted the need to improve the use of devices that monitor blood sugar levels for patients with diabetes in hospitals. Currently, not all hospitals have the recommended systems for remote monitoring of blood sugar levels, which can result in serious health complications. Research is needed to understand how these technologies can be used more frequently and effectively, including:

- Exploring how existing monitoring devices can be utilised more effectively
- Understanding how alarms for out-of-range blood sugar levels during a patient's hospital stay can improve outcomes while in hospital.
- Understanding how Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices can be integrated into hospital settings to provide valuable data for patient care.

## In Care Homes:

As the population ages, there's also a growing number of people with diabetes requiring care in residential homes. Many residents with diabetes face challenges managing their condition, particularly during health crises such as COVID-19. The goal here is to find innovative ways to use glucose monitoring technology to improve diabetes care in care home settings. This might involve:

- Assessing the skills gap in care home staff's knowledge regarding the use of glucose monitoring technology in their care processes.
- Examining collaboration with community-based teams, primary care, or community pharmacists, could enhance care quality, efficiency, and patient experience while in care homes.
- Exploring the potential of glucose monitoring technology to identify health issues early and facilitate post-hospital recovery and community reintegration.

Ann Middleton, who is living with type 1 diabetes and is a member of the Diabetes Research Steering Groups said:

*“For those of us living with diabetes and resident in a care home, either now or in the future, the quality of care we receive is of equal, if not more importance, than when we are living independently in our own homes.*

*Residents with all types of diabetes will be in varying stages of physical and/or mental health. Care needs to be provided by people who understand our personal condition and agreed blood glucose targets, supported by the most up-to-date technology, in accordance with the resident's individual abilities and vulnerabilities.*

*Reports about excess, urgent, diabetes-related hospital admissions from care homes during the recent pandemic were alarming, highlighting an urgent need for research in this area, both from the individual's perspective and from a potentially avoidable, excess burden on the NHS.*

*I should not be terrified, as I know many of us with diabetes are, by the prospect of possibly needing admission to a care home...we deserve better!"*