

Dear Sir/Madam,

I understand that the Insulin Pump Subsidy Scheme is under review. Firstly, I would like to thank you for subsidising my son, \*\*\*\*\*'s pump last year. Without your support and the generous support of JDRF we would not have been able to afford this. We knew the pump would make things easier for \*\*\*\*\* and give him better control over his diabetes, and hence a better outcome in the future, but the difference it has made to \*\*\*\*\*'s life has surpassed all of our expectations. He was skipping needles, too embarrassed to inject himself in front of his friends, so when he was unable to sneak off to a toilet to inject himself, he would simply skip it. He was 11 years old and even though he knew this was bad for him, the peer pressure is just so intense at this age, his desire to be 'normal' outweighed any risks to his health and as for the long term damage he was doing himself, well at this age that didn't even come into the equation for him.

We did not realise what \*\*\*\*\* was doing until he came home very sick from a school camp and had to be rushed to hospital in an ambulance from the doctor's, his condition had deteriorated so badly in the space of a few hours. He spent 14 hours in intense emergency care, plus another night in the ward and would you believe he STILL skipped a needle here and there to save himself the embarrassment of injecting in public?! We had planned on getting a pump in the future but there were always plenty of other bills to be paid.

\*\*\*\*\*'s doctor informed us about the subsidy and urged us to apply for it. So we did, and were granted co-payment support and we have never looked back. The difference these pumps make to kids' lives is huge. His HbA1c came to within normal range within a few months, he can go to outings and parties and eat pretty much what the other kids are eating (within reason of course), he doesn't have to sneak off to inject himself – he just pulls his pump out of his pocket and types in the number of carbohydrates he is eating. He is not embarrassed anymore and he doesn't get the peaks and troughs he used to get with pens. Even his grades at school have improved because he can concentrate better now with the improved control over his BGL's. I can't imagine life without the pump and I don't worry so much now about the long term effects of this disease.

In short, the Insulin Pump Program is very worthwhile and I am extremely grateful to you and to JDRF for giving us the opportunity to own a pump. It really is life changing, and I urge you to continue the program to give other families the same opportunity.

Yours faithfully

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