

13 February 2013

PBS Post-Market
Department of Health and Ageing
MDP 900
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

Post Market Review of Products Used in the Management of Diabetes: Stage 2

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to Stage 2 of the Post-Market Review of Products Used in the Management of Diabetes, which considers the clinical benefits of insulin pump therapy for type 1 diabetes.

CHF is the national peak body representing the interests of Australian healthcare consumers. CHF works to achieve safe, quality, timely healthcare for all Australians, supported by accessible health information and systems.

CHF and its members have a strong interest in the availability of publicly subsidised medicines and other treatments to Australian consumers. We are well aware of the challenges of providing ongoing access to affordable medicines and treatments while at the same time ensuring the sustainability of the health system into the future. CHF therefore welcomes the current review, particularly as it aims to review the management of diabetes overall, rather than considering particular products in isolation.

The current stage is considering Terms of Reference 8 to 10 of the review:

8. Determine the clinical outcomes (e.g. HbA1C, health-related quality of life, and other potential benefits and harms for people with type 1 diabetes) of insulin pump therapy. In this, consideration should be given to different age groups, with a particular reference to those under 18 who may be eligible for the Insulin Pump Program which is funded by the Australian Government.
9. Investigate the cost-effective use of different insulin pumps available under the Insulin Pump Program.
10. Consider the clinical criteria and eligibility under the Insulin Pump Program, to ensure those who would most benefit from insulin pump therapy receive support to assist in their care.

CHF notes that the terms of reference do not specifically refer to the consumer experience, and would like to emphasise the importance of the consumer experience being taken into account. Point 8 of the Terms of Reference, addressing clinical outcomes, includes reference to health-related quality of life and other potential benefits and harms for people with type 1 diabetes. It is important that the views of consumers with experience using insulin pump therapy are taken into account in addressing these areas.

The cost-effectiveness of different pumps, as addressed in point 9 of the Terms of Reference, should take into account not only the healthcare related costs and benefits associated with pump use, but also any wider impacts, such as changes in a consumer's ability to participate in employment, education and social activities. These elements should also be taken into account when addressing point 10 of the Terms of Reference, regarding the clinical criteria and eligibility under the Insulin Pump Program.

CHF member organisation, the Type 1 Diabetes Network, undertook a survey through its *Reality Check* online forum to obtain the views of consumers using insulin pumps. The results of this survey provide insights into the experiences of consumers with insulin pumps. Common themes emerging from the survey were better control, easier management and better health as a result of insulin pump use. The main concerns were in relation to cost of both the pump itself and consumables. Responses to the survey are at [Attachment A](#). CHF urges the review to take the experiences outlined in response to the survey, and other consumer experiences, into account in addressing the Terms of Reference.

CHF appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to this consultation. If you would like to discuss these comments in more detail, please contact CHF Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Anna Greenwood.

Yours sincerely



Carol Bennett
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Attachment A:
Responses to consumer survey conducted by the Type 1 Diabetes Network**

Q1: What do you see as the value of insulin pumps to you?

It gives a much much better control of my diabetes and the ability to live a fairly normal life without a regimented schedule of injecting, eating and exercise.
Flexibility, better control, less hypos and less risk of hypos awareness
The ability to have a semblance of a normal life...I would be completely lost without it.
I can work (aeromedical retrieval shift work), without impacting myself, my crew or my patients. Couldn't do it on MDI.
Much better control of my blood sugars, better management of overall diabetes, better able to see fluctuations in blood sugars and manage them.
My pump gives me a better quality of life with mostly a better A1c.
Tighter control, therefore: *reduced risk of complications in the future *less sick days *more emotionally stable (constantly fluctuating blood sugars really mess with my moods) *greater flexibility in my daily life *FREEDOM!
Enable me to achieve HBA1c < 8 without serious hypos.
Better Bgl control. Less invasive method of managing diabetes.
Better control and more freedom.
more likely to have the amount of insulin I need, more readily bolusing etc. I feel better and I can have more flexibility which helps my mental health
Better control of my diabetes
Better able to control blood glucose levels, especially during exercise, times of stress or illness. I feel more in control.
Diabetes-wise, I see it as the best thing I have ever done. It has freed me of bad lows, unpredictable highs, not being able to exercise without going high or low and not having to inject anymore.
Long acting insulin was causing multiple hypos per week. The pump has cut that down to maybe one per fortnight now. Much better and safer for driving and exercising etc.
Ease - one injection every few days. FEWER HYPOS.
It improves both my HbA1c and quality of life. I get dawn effect which I found very difficult to manage on MDI, but my pump keeps me very stable overnight. The flexibility I get from using an insulin pump is a dream, especially for exercise.
Allows me to manage my diabetes better while exercising. Easier to control in general
- Enables flexibility in life choices, removes strict scheduling of the day - Removes danger of nocturnal hypoglycaemia
Keeps record of active insulin, record keeping much easier
It is my most valuable and essential tool in my regime to ensure my long term health.
Makes it much easier to manage my diabetes and gives me much more flexibility regarding meal times and the type of food I'm consuming.
Freedom from multiple daily injections, easier BGL control and more versatile with daily activities. The whole daily regime of basal/bolus is simplified and hypo control is much much better. In the workplace, on construction sites and whilst cycling, management is easier.
After 35 years of using syringes, both glass and plastic, it makes control much easier.

Q2: How does an insulin pump contribute to your diabetes management?

It has helped to take away the debilitating hypos resulting in me ending up in an ER or admitted to hospital. It allows me to make necessary changes to suit life as it happens; you DO NOT have that flexibility on MDI.
Better control flexibility better control and less hypos in relation to exercise
Was able to get my A1c in the low 6's and keep it there, feel much more alive and overall much better management, not only of my diabetes but mentally as well.
I finally got rid of the 3am Protaphane hypo, and have been able to lose weight more easily than on MDI.
Can more easily see data with patterns - before the pump I had to write it all down manually. Much quicker adjustment if problems arise.
It gives me the ability to exercise without hypoing because I can change the basal; to have much more accuracy in the insulin rates I use for various foods.
An insulin pump IS my diabetes management, without it diabetes management is really a guessing game (I also use CGMS functionality on a regular basis).
As above, in particular it allows me to reduce my insulin dose between 12am-3am when I was having hypos but still achieve an acceptable bsl reading at 7am.
Easy to use. Discreet.
Allows me to be in charge of Diabetes not the other way around. So much easier to control my levels.
my HbA1c dropped from 9s to 7s, ability to correct hyperglycaemia more easily and safely, illness is easier to manage, sport and exercise is definitely easier to manage
Better control made less stressful
Very positively! It enables me to lead a more flexible life whilst maintaining excellent control. I have had diabetes for 43 years.
I see it as the centre. It corrects when I am high, can be shut off when I am low, even though my A1C is not perfect it has been reduced significantly with little effort. I lost a lot of weight when I got a pump. I can tailor my insulin to my food instead of my food to my insulin.
It has made management much easier and has also stopped my BSL from swinging from low-high on a regular basis. Things are much more stable.
Can download all the information I require for Dr appointments. Can see patterns appear. Certainly gives me a 'look in' as to what is going on in the BIGGER PICTURE.
It deals with variation through the day much better than long acting. By tweaking basal I am much more stable. It also allows me to manage sick days, travel, and exercise much better with the use of temporary rates. I also find absorption of the insulin faster and more predictable than with injections.
It is the sole source of getting insulin into my body. I would say it's the most important device for my diabetes management
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Enables great precision in setting of insulin regime - improves Hba1c- enables addressing of dawn phenomenon and nocturnal hypoglycaemia.- dramatically eases sick day and exercise management
Daily record keeping, easy to adjust insulin rates up or down whether high or low, can go to bed whenever
It allows me to bolus for food more often than I would if I was injecting. I would not inject if I ate say a small apple mid morning but I WOULD bolus via the pump, this results in better bsl and ultimately better hba1c.
Much easier to manage. Less hassle.
Suspend and temporary basal modes reduce Hypos and make hypo treatment easier. I can eat a wider range of foods or enjoy an outing with the ability to correct much more easily.
It makes the overall control of diabetes much more able with the ability to make the distribution of insulin as to what carbohydrates you have ingested much easier to calculate.

Q3: How does an insulin pump contribute to your quality of life?

<p>It has assisted in alleviating the severe hypos where I needed assistance from friends/ER/ambulance. It has also assisted in controlling the high BSLs a lot more effectively hopefully avoiding possible long term complications.</p>
<p>Less risk of hypos. Able to exercise without hypos. Better control means I can be involved in what I want to do in life, not worrying about Diabetes</p>
<p>Massively - I used to feel as though I didn't have a quality of life and can now do most things again. So happy with it!</p>
<p>The flexibility is fabulous, and travelling is very easy.</p>
<p>Much, much, more flexibility. Can now exercise without dangerous hypoglycaemic episodes afterwards. Can eat out and socialise, good for my mental health.</p>
<p>No more taking syringes and guesstimating the amount of insulin required; being able to eat normally.</p>
<p>See above, the changes to my life since using a pump have been huge! Flexibility, control and the emotional impact all add significantly to my QOL.</p>
<p>Being able to sleep without waking up hypo at 1am and overall reducing the frequency and severity of my hypos.</p>
<p>Less severe swings in bgl's. Easy to administer insulin anywhere, any time.</p>
<p>Makes me so much less frightened of hypos, especially at night. I am in control of when and what I eat and drink</p>
<p>flexibility, sport, going out is all easier on a pump, my mental health has improved because of these things</p>
<p>Makes work and sport so much. Easier to control sugars</p>
<p>Much improved</p>
<p>It has made everything more streamlined- I don't have to worry about injecting in public, using more than one type of insulin or carrying a stack of things around because it is always with me. Because my blood sugars are less erratic, I find that I am less moody and stressed out.</p>
<p>I have much more freedom with the pump. I don't have to worry about injecting in public and can do physical activities with much more ease.</p>
<p>Far LESS hypos - I don't have to worry so much about passing out.</p>
<p>I stress less about my BSLs because they are easy to correct, and the pump allows me to be spontaneous in every way. Unexpected exercise, meals at odd times, food I didn't expect... it's all OK. Also much easier to manage sick days with temporary basal, don't have to commit to raise or lower basal for a whole 24 hour period like you do with long acting insulin, can just go hour by hour and see how things are going.</p>
<p>I am now able to do boot camp. As an MDI user I found I could not control my diabetes and do boot camp</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- allows greater flexibility in meal planning- much more freedom in exercise
<p>It has reduced hypos to zero, which means a great deal, and the ease at which can take insulin whenever I eat</p>
<p>It allows me to be discreet when bolusing when eating or simply correcting a high bsl, as opposed to injecting. I have had strangers abuse me when (discreetly) injecting in public and friends be rude because needles "make me squeamish". It's not as if I have a choice in the matter. Needles have a stigma attached to them.</p>
<p>It allows me to feel more 'normal'. I don't have to restrict the types of foods I eat nor eat at specified times.</p>
<p>In so many ways, over injections, it is a vast improvement especially in public. A little more food freedom as in time and quantity and type.</p>
<p>It makes my ability to mix in public without having to draw up insulin in front of people. The insulin pump looks like a mobile phone, so unless you are with people who know you are on a pump it is virtually unable to detect that you are giving insulin.</p>

Q4: How does an insulin pump contribute to your school or work life?

<p>It is by far a much more discreet way of managing my diabetes avoiding confronting situations for both myself and work colleagues.</p>
<p>I can go about my work without having to worry about D. I have fewer hypos and at lunchtime I don't feel like people are staring at me having needles. The pump is much more discreet.</p>
<p>I haven't had to take a day off work since getting the pump.</p>
<p>Couldn't do my current job on MDI nearly so easily or effectively. I can be as reliable as anyone else on the team.</p>
<p>Much less 'time out' to manage diabetes, better productivity as reduced high and low episodes.</p>
<p>I used to work for medicos, and if I had had the pump then I could have managed much better. I rarely got a proper lunch time and ate at the work station - much easier to do with a pump than with MDI and 'having' to eat at specified times.</p>
<p>I work in a highly stressful environment where I have to be switched on and responsive to crisis. The pump (and CGMS) allows me to know that variations in my BSLs are not going to stop me doing what I need to do. With greater control I also take less time off work and am more efficient when I'm at work as changing BSLs are not getting in the way.</p>
<p>Makes me more productive as I am in better control and well rested.</p>
<p>As above. Also makes it easier to deal when breaks are not always at the same time.</p>
<p>Means that I don't have to eat at specific times so I can schedule meetings etc at any time.</p>
<p>flexibility with high school routines changing it was easier increasing and decreasing the basal on a pump allows me to do the stop start job in the warehouse busy one minute and waiting around the next</p>
<p>Able to use different. Basal rates for various duties of my job</p>
<p>I work shift work, so it is enormously beneficial</p>
<p>I feel more normal because I just press a few buttons instead of injecting. The less lows and highs mean that I have fewer sick days, and I can carry on with my work day as anyone else does.</p>
<p>It is much easier to manage. My BSL's are much more stable which makes me less moody and easier to get along with workmates. I also don't have to worry about injecting in front of everyone.</p>
<p>it's easy and not 'on display' especially when I have to bolus for a meal in public</p>
<p>It allows me to manage unpredictability. I have a support-focussed role, and my day can be anything from sitting at my desk to suddenly having to briskly walk all over campus. That kind of unexpected exercise is difficult to manage with MDI but easy with a temp basal with pump. It also means I can delay meals if I'm busy. Also, the ease of control and greater flexibility gives me more mental energy to devote to work.</p>
<p>I no longer have to worry about people seeing me inject it's much more discreet.</p>
<p>- no longer tied to strict meal schedule - discreet</p>
<p>It has reduced hypos to zero, which means a great deal, and the ease at which can take insulin whenever I eat</p>
<p>It allows great flexibility - being able to reduce basal rates means one does not have to adhere to strict eating regimes.</p>
<p>Keeps my BGL's regulated better than on MDI's and contributes to increased concentration levels at work.</p>
<p>At work my safety and the concerns of others is enhanced. Extended periods between meals, long distance travel, and working around heavy machinery, long meetings, and numerous other situations are all with less stress and discreet management. Much improved safety.</p>
<p>I do not attend school and I do not work anymore due to my health. However it made management much easier when I was working.</p>

Q5: How does an insulin pump contribute to your participation in social life?

Day to day life is not something that is planned and often things will happen on the spur of the moment. The pump allows me cater for many of those changes / unexpected events in a far more easy and effective way.
I feel more comfortable going out knowing I can be spontaneous and do what I want without pre-planning 24 hours before. I can just say yes to going out instead of worrying that I took too much long acting for what I want to do.
No real change, have always enjoyed a very active social life. Sports and fitness is much easier on a pump.
I can eat out, go to parties, and go to social events where food is served late, without fear of hypos. I feel like a normal person.
No need to excuse myself to go and do an injection; just bolus and go. No need to carry syringes or pens. A pump becomes part of you.
I can more easily fit in with plans of others or be spontaneous. It removes the need to plan and the need to eat and inject at set times. I can join in for a pizza binge or go for sushi and not have to decline or then need to go top up on carbs.
Getting a better night's sleep enables me to participate better in all areas of life.
It is far more discreet to have insulin in this way, especially when you may be around people who are confronted by using a pen, no matter how hard you try to hide it!
Again I can eat around a schedule that suits me instead of worrying about hypoing because I haven't eaten for a few hours
I can manage a big night out better; I don't forget to take my basal the next day as it is attached to me!
Makes eating out so much easier with the pump.
Very positively
Because I am healthier, I am less likely to cancel plans. It has made travelling so much easier, in terms of time zones and different foods that before I would have struggled to manage.
My BSL's are much more stable which makes me less moody and easier to get along with people. I don't have to worry about injecting in public. And I can have multiple courses of food and use the dual/square wave functions to keep my BSL stable.
Great - I can eat WHEN and where I want.
It makes it much easier to deal with unexpected exercise, delayed meals at restaurants, odd food, drinking alcohol... all those things you need to plan for on MDI but can be handled by temporary rates and correct basal pattern on pump. I can be much more spontaneous using an insulin pump.
It hasn't really had an impact in this area.
- Not as worried about meal planning - More spontaneity
Little more confidence, not having to carry lantus with you as well in case you stay overnight, caught several times before
Again, it allows far more flexibility in all things, eating times, etc.
In social situations I am usually eating so it makes it much easier as I can basically eat what and when I want.
More discreet to have a bolus when in public. Also do not have to carry syringes or pens which is more convenient, the pump is always with me.
It makes it easier to go out without people making comments on your use of syringes i.e. are you on drugs?

Q6: What concerns do you have about insulin pumps?

As they become more widely used, the private health insurance companies will make it far too expensive and difficult for most people to obtain one. Forcing people onto higher priced plans requiring higher and higher coverage.
I have not had any problems in 3.5 years. I guess if the pump stopped working that would be a concern.
None
The small but real risk of failure or damage and DKA. Being unconscious for any reason and having people mess with it.
The very high cost of the pumps especially for those on low incomes and without health insurance.
None really. The only problems I have had is during hospital stays (non-D related) when staff are not happy to let me use it, or they are not knowledgeable enough to let me use it.
The cost of consumables. Last financial year my out-of-pocket diabetes expenses added up to thousands of dollars - \$1000 of which were for pump consumables alone.
The cost, the likelihood of a pump malfunction.
None
Just the cost
the stickiness of the adhesive tape on a hot sweating moving about work day and going through so many sites, stopping to resite them but also the expense
The cost of equipment used with the pump
The cost. Security when travelling overseas.
I have just passed my warranty date (4 years) and I am worried my private health fund will not cover another one if it breaks as I believe their policy is one every five years. I worry that if I were mugged it would get stolen.
I worry about accidentally pulling it out or being a gadget, it might stop working.
Breaking down. Out of the 4 years I have been on the pump, it has broken down 3 times!
I worry about it breaking or malfunctioning. That would be bad. But I carry back up supplies, if I'm travelling far from home this includes long acting insulin. I also worry about security officials taking it from me at airports, or it somehow being removed from me if I was arrested overseas or in any other kind of hostile situation. Most people would not understand how quickly I could get really sick.
My main concern is the pump not giving me the right amount of insulin either through the device failing or problems with the line.
Nothing!
Can't tell it is not working until you go unexpectedly high.....
The 4 year manufacturer's warranty and the 5 year replacement period by PHI's. Plus that some HPs think it is a privilege to have one rather than a very important and successful health tool in managing this unwanted condition long term.
The only concern (and not a big one) is the fact that you are always connected to a machine.
A pump going rogue on me in my sleep and delivering a fatal dose. Failure at the worst possible moments, i.e. when travelling away from home.
The increasing price of them with newer functions being developed for them with diabetes management.

Q7: What challenges do you have in managing/using your insulin pump?

My pump has the ability to utilise a CGMS but the sensors/transmitters are not currently subsidised on the NDSS and far too expensive to be realistically used effectively. The information that a CGMS combined with finger sticks is vastly superior to finger sticks alone and would be extremely beneficial to anyone. A long term solution that short term thinkers/decision makers don't want to know about.
In the beginning it's a lot of work to get the settings right but now it's no different to someone who wears contacts having to make time in their routine to put them in and take out. You just do what you need to and go about your day.
none
The only issues I have are with wearing tight fitting dresses and backpacks; the pump simply gets in the way. No other issues at all.
My only challenge is finding a comfortable way to sleep with it, but that is it.
I have not come across any - it just makes life more liveable.
None aside from cost.
Need to be very careful with monitoring sugar levels as sugars can rise very quickly on the pump for a variety of reasons.
None
Nothing. All very straightforward
the expense of the consumables especially on days like mentioned above #6
None
I would like to be able to obtain pump consumables at my local NDSS pharmacy. Otherwise, none.
None significant- twice I have pulled my cannula out in my sleep resulting in a high, and once it malfunctioned in the middle of the night.
Mainly just making sure I have enough supplies of the consumables. Sometimes DAV have run out and taken a couple weeks to supply.
I have become carbohydrate sensitive - no longer eat bread / pasta / higher carb foods.
Remembering to change sites! I wish my pump had a site change reminder. Also sometimes new sites don't absorb very well, which cause issues, and air bubbles in the line can sometimes give me grief. I also find it difficult at the beach: can't swim with it, don't want to leave it with my towel.
Correctly carb counting is my biggest challenge
Very few. Easy to use in comparison to multiple daily objections.
Changing reservoir etc every 2 days, carrying additional reserves for faults with the pump, ability to tell if it is working
When any hardware fails, i.e. a split in the tubing or a crack in the reservoir, it can result in bsl climbing and you become ill very quickly. Also, the lack of knowledge of pumps within the HP.
None. Was hard at first to get basal/bolus rates right.
Very few, if any. Maybe placing the pump and/or lines with some clothing but not an issue really.
The price, the location and supply of accessories.

Q8: What, if any, is the case to expand public funding for insulin pumps?

<p>We need to think of the long term benefits and costs, not what is going to make us look good for the next election. Pumps can provide better control of diabetes now and in the future lessening the occurrence of incidents and complications that will tie up hospital staff and beds for longer and longer times costing far more than the cost of providing the pumps/CGMS</p>
<p>Pumps can improve Bgl, so long term, less complications and so less problems later. Less hypos and hypos awareness Diabetes does not have to be a disability. Having the best equipment can improve quality of life and general health diabetics can maintain their health and weight and live a normal life and also have good health for their entire life.</p>
<p>Giving people the ability to live life to the fullest and not live in fear of complications due to poor control. Better control on a pump means less money spent on complications via public funding.</p>
<p>I think that some people with D might not be suited to pumping, and possibly more morbidity might be created by misuse. But certainly it is a useful tool for many adults, adolescents, and kids with well educated, motivated parents.</p>
<p>The pump changed my life. It has made me more confident with my diabetes, allowed me to be a normal person, and has enabled me to exercise and participate in life more. The best outcome has been the incredible control of my diabetes: I regularly have an HbA1c of between 6-6.5 and very few hypoglycaemic/hyperglycaemic episodes. As a result am in very good health overall.</p>
<p>No-one should be forced to go into debt if they need an insulin pump. PHI can be very expensive and some just cannot afford it. A subsidy for pumps would be of value to just about everyone. It is wrong, for instance, that we pay so much more than people in other countries although our dollar is so strong. Interesting too, that the NHS in the UK, will provide a pump if it is necessary, while our PHIs often scream blue murder about providing one even when the insurance level covers it.</p>
<p>I could write you an essay about the case for prevention versus cure in treating complications of Type 1 Diabetes. All I will say is invest now, give us quality of life, and in return we will cost the Australian taxpayer less in the future.</p>
<p>Better control of blood glucose levels should lead to better health outcomes for people with diabetes and hopefully less time needed in hospital or using other health services to treat complications.</p>
<p>They give you better quality of life. You feel more 'normal'. They also mean less chance of complications which can only be of benefit to the health system.</p>
<p>Better physical and mental health opportunities for people with type 1 of all ages, potential then for less complications and less government expenditure later on. proactive health care instead of reactive</p>
<p>Much better control of sugars for all diabetics causing fewer complications.</p>
<p>More type 1s should have access to a pump.</p>
<p>I am fortunate enough to have a job and be able to pay for private health insurance to cover my pump, but what about those who don't? It has become clear over the years that pumps are the gold standard in diabetes care, and I think everyone should have the opportunity to try one out. If people control their diabetes better now via a pump, it will save money later.</p>
<p>I think it makes diabetes so much easier to manage on every level. I think, especially in children, the peace of mind it brings from not having those major BSL swings is so much safer than using MDI.</p>
<p>Many more people need access to this 'luxury' as it would give a better quality of life. Pumps are certainly NOT affordable without medical insurance.</p>
<p>It improves quality of life, reduces the variation in blood sugar levels and makes it MUCH easier for people to exercise.</p>
<p>Long term allows greater precision of dosing, tighter glycaemic control and fewer complications. MDI regimes are crude and outdated technology. MDI cannot address adequately daily variations in insulin sensitivity and overnight danger of hypoglycaemic events. Use of long term insulins (e.g. levemir) heavily restricts flexibility and freedom. Once injected, long term insulin boluses cannot be varied while insulin pumps are infinitely programmable to meet each individual's needs.</p>
<p>Life is much easier on a pump, and should not only be for people on private health</p>

As pumps generally result in better management of bsl and ultimately in long term health, it is a far cheaper option to have pumps for T1s (until technology comes up with a better solution - stem cells to replace the islets in the pancreas?) than to have all T1s after a few years suffering from collateral conditions such as kidney / eye complications / neuropathy / heart disease etc. Common sense and long term foresight rather than bean counting in the short term.

I personally have improved my control by using a pump. If more diabetics can improve their control and reduce complications later in life that can only be a good thing.

The improved control and reduction in costs from reduced long term problems would offset any increase in initial cost. If the cost was a problem then partial assistance or co-payments for some people might be helpful.

The price of pumps is extremely expensive, and unless you can afford to purchase one or have private health insurance which is very difficult in this time due to unemployment.