
INSULIN DELIVERY DEVICE COMPARISON

DEVICE	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Syringe	Costs less than other devices. Syringes are available in range of sizes. Caregiver can draw up doses in advance.	More difficult to manipulate than other devices, particularly for people with low vision or numbness, stiffness, or tremors in the hands.
Prefilled pen	Accurate dosing. Convenient, discreet, and easy to use.	May have to give two shots if dose size exceeds maximum allowed at one time. Not covered by all insurance plans.
Durable (refillable) pen	Accurate dosing. Convenient, discreet, and easy to use. At least one pen offers a memory function to track recent doses.	May have to give two shots if dose size exceeds maximum allowed at one time. Not covered by all insurance plans. Must choose compatible cartridges.
Jet injector	Convenient and discreet. No needles.	Can be costly. May cause bruising. Device requires regular cleaning. Not covered by all insurance plans.
Insulin pump	More lifestyle flexibility. Most similar to how a healthy pancreas releases insulin. Medicare covers for Types 1 and 2 diabetes, if eligible. Some pumps work with continuous glucose monitor.	Pump and supplies can be expensive. Not covered by all insurance plans. More complex treatment regimen.

Diabetes Self-Management, "Insulin Delivery Devices" by Stacy Griffin, PharmD, and Laura Hieronymus, MEd, RN, BC-ADM, CDE

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