

Charter of the Diabetes Advocacy Alliance™

Background: Diabetes Is Serious, Common, and Costly

Diabetes is one of the most serious, common, and costly diseases in the United States. The most common types of diabetes are type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes, and gestational diabetes. It is estimated that type 2 diabetes accounts for 90-95 percent of all cases of diabetes. As the prevalence of diabetes has increased dramatically over the past 30+ years, so have total costs for treating diabetes and its complications.

Many deadly diseases are directly linked to diabetes. For example, diabetes significantly increases the risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and kidney failure, serious eye disease, and nerve damage. There also is a strong correlation between diabetes and depression. Cardiovascular disease death rates are higher among adults with diagnosed diabetes than among adults without diagnosed diabetes. Every day, hundreds of people are disabled from diabetes. Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness, end-stage renal disease and non-traumatic amputations among working age adults.

Large, well done clinical trials have shown that type 2 diabetes is largely preventable. The modifiable risk factors for type 2 diabetes include overweight/obesity and sedentary lifestyle. But other risk factors are not modifiable, such as advancing age, family history, and race or ethnicity. Therefore, it is vital to identify adults at risk for type 2 diabetes through screening and subsequent counseling and referral to diabetes prevention programs, such as those recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [National Diabetes Prevention Program](#).

Screening also can identify those adults with undiagnosed diabetes, who then can be counseled and treated. Improving the results of diabetes treatment and self-care can dramatically reduce the risks of complications for those diagnosed with the disease. Therefore, reducing the impact of diabetes would help reduce the incidence of many other serious conditions.

Meeting the Challenge: The Diabetes Advocacy Alliance™

The [Diabetes Advocacy Alliance™](#) is a diverse group of organizations that have come together with the purpose of changing how we perceive and approach the problem of diabetes in this nation.

In seeking to grow the Alliance, participants may include: All organizations committed to addressing diabetes issues and advocacy, including diabetes-related organizations, patient organizations, pharmaceutical and medical device companies, and other groups committed to the prevention and improvement of care for individuals with diabetes and prediabetes.

Other non-profit and for-profit groups could be invited to participate in the Alliance. If other for-profit organizations would choose to join the Alliance and be accepted as members, including other pharmaceutical companies, they would be asked to commit financial resources at a level commensurate with those provided by Novo Nordisk.

The vision of the Alliance is: **To influence change in the US health care system to improve diabetes prevention, detection and care and to speed the development of pathways to cures for diabetes.**

The mission of the Alliance is: **To unite and align key diabetes stakeholders and the larger diabetes community around key diabetes-related policy and legislative efforts in order to elevate diabetes on the national agenda.**