# Oh Baby! Healthier Pregnancies Start with Diabetes Education and Innovation

Moderator: Pennsylvania Representative Donna Oberlander, Eastern Regional Director, Women In Government Board of Directors

Alyce Thomas, RDN, FAND, Nutrition Consultant and Board Member,
Diabetes Leadership Council

Erika Emerson, MPP, Chief Policy Officer, Diabetes Leadership Council







# Oh Baby! Healthier Pregnancies Start with Diabetes Education & Innovation

Women In Government November 3, 2023

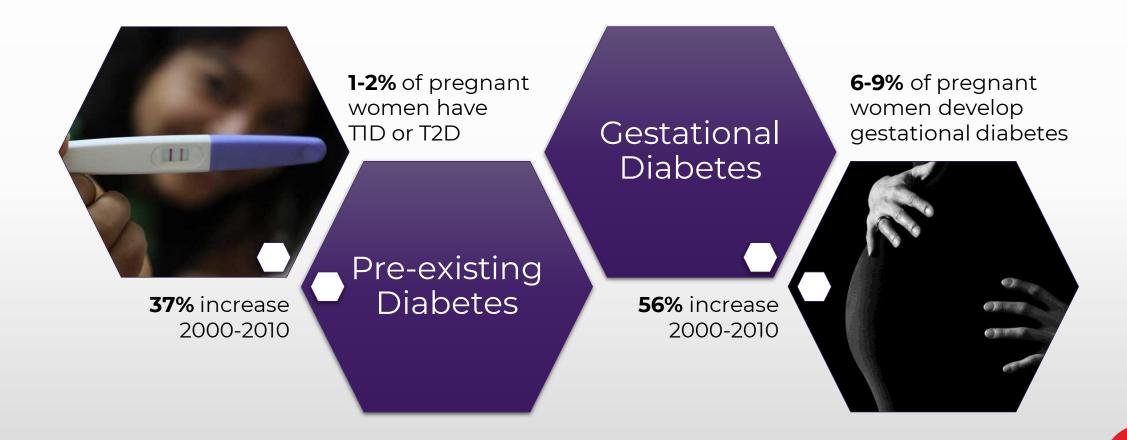




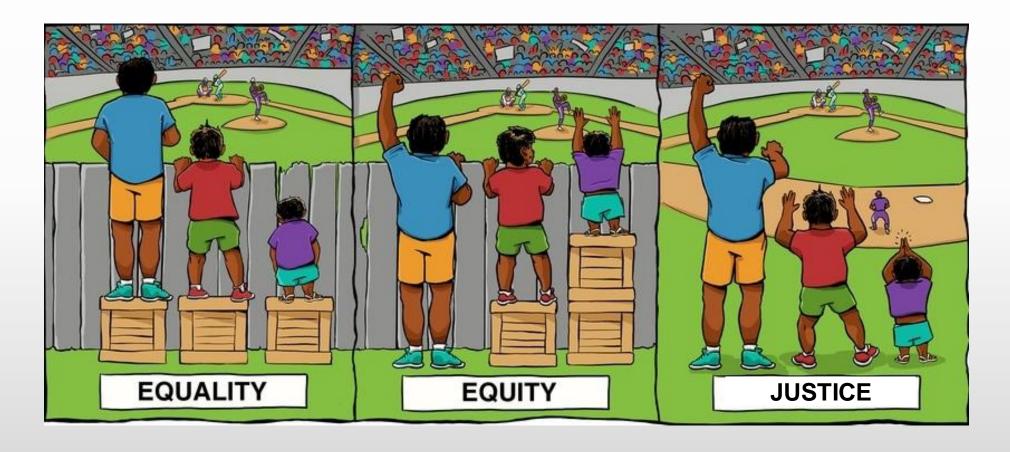
## **EVERYONE WANTS A HEALTHY BABY...**



# **DIABETES IN PREGNANCY**



# **HEALTH EQUITY**





### JUST SO YOU KNOW WHAT WE MEAN....



### TYPE 1 DIABETES (TI or TIDM)

- Autoimmune
- · Body destroys its own insulin-producing cells
- · Can't generate enough insulin to regulate blood sugar

### **TYPE 2 DIABETES (T2 or T2DM)**

- Metabolic
- · Insulin deficient or resistant
- · Can't produce enough insulin or use insulin efficiently to regulate blood sugar

### **GESTATIONAL DIABETES MELLITUS (GDM)**

- Diagnosed in 2nd or 3rd trimester that was not clearly overt diabetes prior to the pregnancy
- · Increased risk for developing diabetes later in life

Specific types of diabetes due to other causes



### **DIABETES IS NOT ONE-SIZE-FITS ALL**





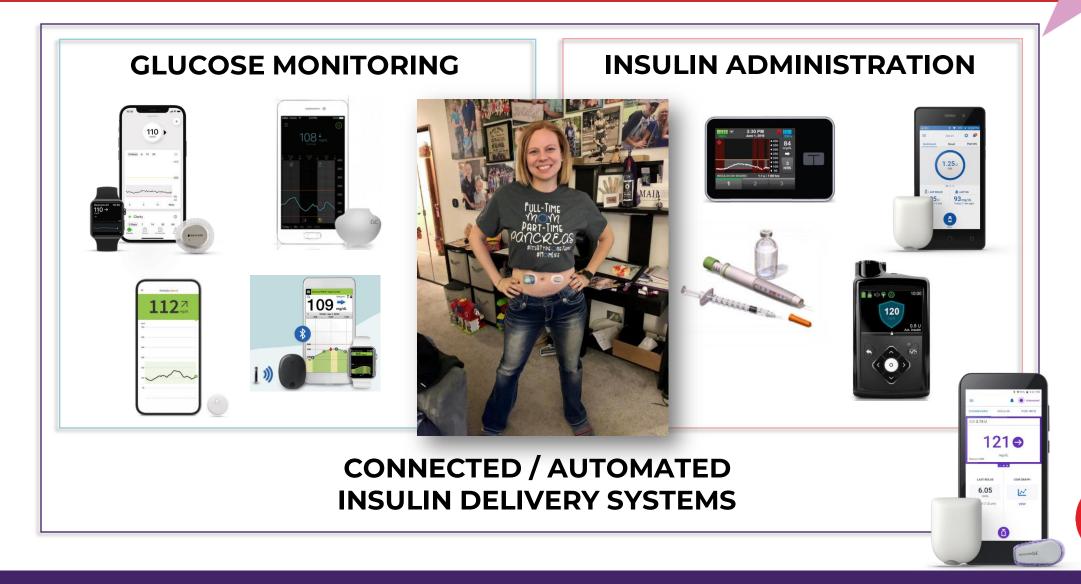
### Factors that affect Blood Glucose



Read more about the 42 Factors at diaTribe.org/42FactorsExplained
Sign up for diaTribe's updates at diaTribe.org/Join



### CRITICAL DIABETES TECHNOLOGIES





# CARE CONTINUUM IMPROVES OUTCOMES

### **GOAL: BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS WITHIN NORMAL RANGE**

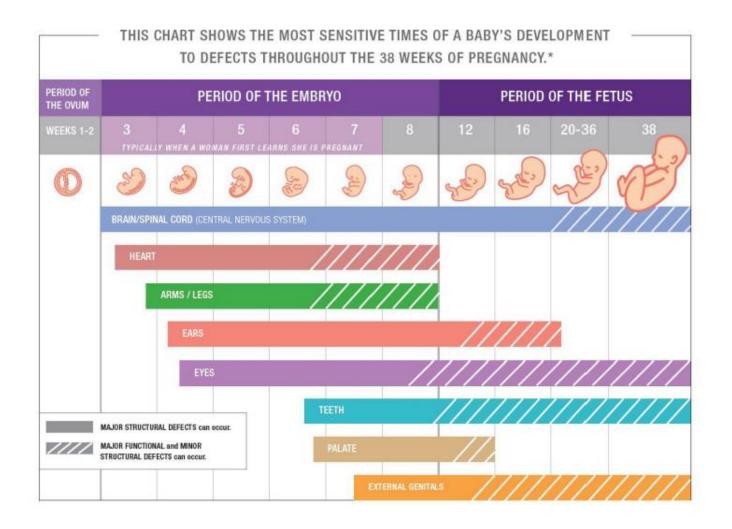


- Diabetes screening
- Counseling
- ☐ Care

- Whatever she needs
- ☐ When she needs it
- Diabetes screening
- Diabetes management or prevention
- ☐ Lactation support
- ☐ Weight management
- Contraception



### CRITICAL PERIODS OF FETAL DEVELOPMENT

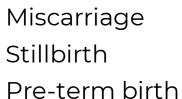




### **RISKS TO MOM & BABY**



## MOM



Pre-eclampsia

High blood pressure

Cesarean delivery

Perinatal depression

Future diabetes or obesity



# **BABY**

Birth defects

Large size

Breathing difficulty

Jaundice

Birth injuries

Future diabetes, hypertension or

obesity







### DIABETES PRECONCEPTION CHECKLIST

- Medical screening
- Gynecological screening
- Family planning
- Weight management
- Physical activity
- Healthy food choices
- Folic acid
   supplementation

- Avoid toxic substances
- Screening for depression
- Diabetes screening





### PRECONCEPTION CARE CHECKLIST

Preconception education should include:  Comprehensive nutrition assessment and recommendations for:  Overweight/obesity or underweight  Meal planning  Correction of dietary nutritional deficiencies  Caffeine intake  Safe food preparation technique  Lifestyle recommendations for:  Regular moderate exercise  Avoidance of hypothormia (het tubs)	Screening should include:  □ Diabetes complications and comorbidities, including comprehensive foot exam; comprehensive ophthalmologic exam; ECG in individuals starting at age 35 years who have cardiac signs/symptoms or risk factors and, if abnormal, further evaluation; lipid panel; serum creatinine; TSH; and urine protein-to-creatinine ratio □ Anemia □ Genetic carrier status (based on history):  • Cystic fibrosis • Sickle cell anemia • Tay-Sachs disease • Thalassemia	
<ul> <li>Avoidance of hyperthermia (hot tubs)</li> <li>Adequate sleep</li> <li>Comprehensive diabetes self-management education</li> <li>Counseling on diabetes in pregnancy per current standards, including natural history of insulin resistance in pregnancy and postpartum; preconception glycemic targets; avoidance of DKA/severe hyperglycemia; avoidance of severe hypoglycemia; progression of retinopathy; PCOS (if applicable); fertility in people with diabetes; genetics of diabetes; risks to pregnancy including miscarriage, still birth, congenital malformations, macrosomia,</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Others if indicated</li> <li>Infectious disease</li> <li>Neisseria gonorrhoeae/Chlamydia trachomatis</li> <li>Hepatitis C</li> <li>HIV</li> <li>Pap smear</li> <li>Syphilis</li> </ul> Immunizations should include:	
preterm labor and delivery, hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, etc.  Supplementation Folic acid supplement (400 μg routine) Appropriate use of over-the-counter medications and supplements  Iealth assessment and plan should include:	□ Rubella □ Varicella □ Hepatitis B □ Influenza □ Others if indicated	
<ul> <li>□ General evaluation of overall health</li> <li>□ Evaluation of diabetes and its comorbidities and complications, including DKA/severe hyperglycemia; severe hypoglycemia/hypoglycemia unawareness; barriers to care; comorbidities such as hyperlipidemia, hypertension, NAFLD, PCOS, and thyroid dysfunction; complications such as macrovascular disease, nephropathy, neuropathy (including autonomic bowel and bladder dysfunction), and retinopathy</li> <li>□ Evaluation of obstetric/gynecologic history, including a history of: cesarean section,</li> </ul>	Preconception plan should include:  Nutrition and medication plan to achieve glycemic targets prior to conception, including appropriate implementation of monitoring, continuous glucose monitoring, and pump technology  Contraceptive plan to prevent pregnancy until glycemic targets are achieved  Management plan for general health, gynecologic concerns, comorbid conditions, or complications, if present, including hypertension, nephropathy, retinopathy; Rh incompatibility; and thyroid dysfunction	
congenital malformations or fetal loss, current methods of contraception, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, postpartum hemorrhage, preterm delivery, previous macrosomia, Rh incompatibility, and thrombotic events (DVT/PE)	DKA, diabetic ketoacidosis; DVT/PE, deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism; ECG, electrocardiogram; NAFLD, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease; PCOS, polycystic ovary syndrome TSH, thyroid-stimulating hormone.	



### **BLOOD GLUCOSE TARGETS**

	Preconception	Pregnancy	Postpartum
Hemoglobin A1C (A1C)	<6.5%	<6%	<7% <8%*
Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) (70-180 mg/dL)	>70% TIR <25% TAR <4% TBR	70% (T1)* 85% (GDM)* *(63-140 mg/dL)	>70% TIR <25% TAR <4% TBR
Blood Glucose Monitoring (BGM) • Pre-meal • Post-meal	<ul><li>80-130 mg/dL</li><li>180mg/dL</li></ul>	<ul><li>&lt;95 mg/dL</li><li>&lt;140 mg/dl (1 hour)</li><li>&lt;120 mg/dL (2 hours)</li></ul>	<ul><li>80-130 mg/dL</li><li>180mg/dL</li></ul>

### **POSTPARTUM CARE**

Type 1 or Type 2

- ☐ Reevaluation of medication
  - Insulin/other diabetes agents
  - Hypoglycemia prevention
- ☐ Lactation
  - Benefits
  - Support
- ☐ Contraception
  - Critical to avoid unplanned pregnancies
  - Contraception discussions

# **Gestational Diabetes**

- ☐ Diabetes Screening
  - 4-12 weeks postpartum
  - Every 1-3 years
- ☐ Weight management
- ☐ Diabetes prevention
- ☐ Contraception





My journey with self-advocacy began with my diagnosis of type 1 diabetes 25 years ago. Advocating for health insurance coverage, access to medical technologies and information, and competent care is an ongoing requirement of life with this chronic illness. My most important personal victory came after 8 years of being told by PCPs, gynecologists and even some endocrinologists that I should not consider pregnancy with type 1.

Not only did I consider it, I found an amazing healthcare team who helped make it possible, leveraged all of the tools, medicines and knowledge to help me deliver a healthy baby girl in October of 2012.









"SHE WAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE
MY DIABETES MIRACLE – BUT THE
REALITY IS THAT I HAD TO LEARN
MORE, DO MORE, AND SEEK
ACCESS TO BETTER OPTIONS TO
MAKE THIS DREAM POSSIBLE."





"IN TODAY'S WORLD OF DIABETES ADVANCEMENTS, IT IS POSSIBLE TO DELIVER A HEALTHY CHILD, EVEN MULTIPLE CHILDREN. THE KEY IS EDUCATION, COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL CARE, DEDICATION AND ACCESS TO TOOLS, DEVICES AND MEDICATIONS TO ATTAIN SUCCESS."

When I was diagnosed with type I diabetes in 1993, I was advised not to become a mother. Yet, in 2007, I became pregnant and lived to tell the tale of a successful, non-eventful pregnancy with type I diabetes. It was the most challenging hurdle I faced living with diabetes; I spent 38 weeks carefully monitoring blood sugars, adjusting the settings on my insulin pump, and attending countless medical appointments.

Thanks to an informed and compassionate medical team, I delivered a healthy baby boy. I will forever be grateful to my medical team who provided physical and mental support to myself and my husband, helping us navigate this journey.







"DIABETES TAKES A VILLAGE.
BEING PREGNANT TAKES A
VILLAGE. BEING PREGNANT
WITH DIABETES TAKES ....WELL,
IT TAKES A LOT. A LOT OF
PEOPLE, LOVE, SUPPORT, AND
GUIDANCE."







Being pregnant with type 1 is completely unpredictable. I couldn't have done it without my team – an endo who I trusted, my OB/MFM teams, my parents, my husband, my family, and friends. I was not prepared for almost triple the amount of insulin one day, and barely taking any insulin another day. I couldn't have done it without my team!! And thanks to them, I have two new team members! Both pregnancies were vastly different – from throwing up any time I would eat glucose tablets and an unexpected emergency delivery at 33 weeks, to a full-term baby who had to go to the NICU due to my blood sugar dropping during the c-section. You never know what diabetes will throw with you, and your team is who will help you through it!



### STATE POLICY & PROGRAM LEVERS



### **HEALTH PLANS**

- Medicaid
- · CHIP
- State employees
- Exchanges
- · Fully insured employer

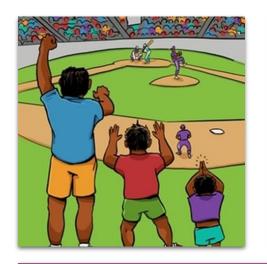


### **PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS**

- Screening
- Awareness
- Interventions



### BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO DIABETES CARE

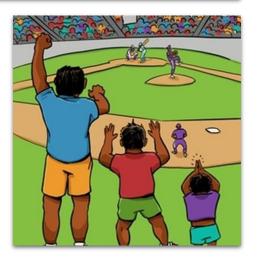


# Benchmark diabetes & pregnancy coverage to national guidelines

- Diabetes screening
- Medications
- · Diabetes technology
- Provider visits and services

# Keep removing barriers in your state's access & affordability ecosystem

- · Diabetes Action Plans
- Prescription drug access and affordability
  - · Insulin and diabetes supply copay caps
  - · Rebate pass through
  - · Copay accumulator/maximizer bans
  - · Prior authorization/step therapy standards
  - · Generics and biosimilar coverage
- Medicaid expansion and redeterminations





### **RESOURCES FOR CHANGE-MAKERS**



- Subject matter experts
- Policymaker briefings
- · Consensus statement
- Issue briefs



- Grassroots advocates
- State score cards
- Advocate training
- Diabetes & obesity handbook \*coming soon





# **THANK YOU**

contact@diabetesleadership.org diabetesleadership.org