**How to Get a Talking Meter to Test Blood Glucose Levels at Home**

Blood testing meters, strips, lancets and supplies are sold at pharmacies, online and mail-order companies. You don’t need a prescription to buy a blood glucose testing meter (glucometer), strips and supplies, but without a prescription you will have to pay 100% of the costs. To get these items fully or partially paid for by your insurance, your doctor needs to write a prescription or call-in/ send in prescriptions to your pharmacy for:

* talking blood glucose testing meter due to blindness
* blood glucose meter strips
* 2 in 1 safety lancets

Some major pharmacies such as Walmart, CVS, and Rite Aid stock, or can order, talking meters and supplies. Smaller pharmacies can usually order the supplies with advanced notice. You could also call a medical supply company and have the glucometer and supplies mailed to your home and the medical supply company takes care of billing your insurance company.

Most Medicare and Medicaid coordinated care insurance programs require no or a very low co-payment for diabetes supplies. If you only have Medicare, then Medicare covers the items at 80%, and you pay the remaining 20% of the cost (if you have a secondary insurance it usually pays the 20% co-pay amount). Unfortunately, the insurance coverage system is complicated and varies depending on the type of insurance and plan you have, so the only way to determine the amount you will be responsible to pay for, and the brand of talking glucometer and supplies that are covered, is to call your insurance company and ask them (there is a toll-free customer service number located on your insurance card). If your insurance company says they will not pay for a talking glucometer, find out why, and then ask your physician to appeal that decision with your insurance company. The appeal needs to come from your physician because the insurance company usually requires your physician to complete a medical necessity form to override their denial.

Walmart has an audible glucometer that speaks in English or Spanish called the **ReliOn Premier VOICE**. It costs about $15.00 and a box of 50 strips costs about $9.00. Walmart also has a collection of non-talking blood glucose testing meters that cost between $9.00- $12.00 with a box of 50 strips costing between $5.00- $9.00. The ReliOn meters and supplies are stocked in the pharmacy section of the store; if you have health insurance get your doctor to write an order and the pharmacy can bill your insurance. You can also purchase them online at walmart.com but you will pay full price.

You can also get a Prodigy meter, strips and supplies from **Accessible Pharmacy.** Contact Accessible Pharmacy by phone at 215-799-9900, online at<https://www.accessiblepharmacy.com/contact-accessible-pharmacy/> or on the Be My Eyes app M-F 10am to 4pm. Accessible Pharmacy, Be My Eyes and Prodigy have partnered together to provide diabetes supplies to people with low/no vision at no or low cost. Accessible Pharmacy is a full-service pharmacy and can also work with you, your doctors and your insurance company to transfer your prescriptions to them so that all of your medications can be fully accessible with your choice of large print, talking, or braille labels. They mail your medications/ supplies free to your home, and provide ongoing education. If you don’t have insurance or your insurance doesn’t cover a talking meter, the prices are: Prodigy Voice $40; Prodigy Autocode $10; and a box of 50 strips costs $8.

**Recommended audible blood glucose monitors:**

**Prodigy Voice**

**Prodigy Autocode**

**ReliOn Premier VOICE** from Walmart

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