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OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: OHTAC has released the draft copy of the *Diabetes Strategy Evidence Platform*

Diabetes is a serious chronic condition affecting millions of people worldwide and is the sixth leading cause of death in Canada. In 2005, an estimated 816,000 Ontarians had diabetes, representing 8.8% of the province's population. The economic impact of the disease is equally staggering, with expenditures for treatment and management amounting to over \$5 billion annually. Much of this cost arises from the serious long-term complications associated with the disease including: stroke, coronary heart disease, adult blindness, limb amputations, and kidney disease.

On July 22, 2008 the government of Ontario announced an investment of \$741 million in new funding over four years for a comprehensive Diabetes Strategy. Key elements of the Strategy included an online registry, improving access to insulin pumps and supplies, expanding chronic kidney disease services, expanding access to bariatric surgery, educational campaigns for high-risk populations, and increasing access to team-based care.

An analysis was undertaken by the Medical Advisory Secretariat (MAS) to identify what key components of the Diabetes Strategy might lack clear evidence. The analysis identified five areas amenable to review:

- Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion pumps for type 1 and type 2 adult diabetics,
- Bariatric surgery for morbidly obese people with diabetes,
- Community-based care for the management of type 2 diabetics,
- Behavioural interventions for type 2 diabetics, and
- Home telemonitoring for type 2 diabetics.

For each of these key subject areas, comprehensive evidence-based analyses comparing the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of available treatment and management options have been completed and are now available for review in draft form. Where possible, economic analyses were performed using Ontario-specific economic models for type 2 diabetes. As indicated, some analyses may focus on both type 1 and type 2 diabetes, but the majority of analyses centre on the type 2 population.

We invite you to view these research reports and provide your comments, particularly if you believe evidence has been overlooked or misinterpreted, at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohtac/draft_comment.html

To keep up-to-date with the draft releases and all new materials from MAS and OHTAC, be sure to visit to the "What's New" section of our websites. For What's New at OHTAC, [click here](#). For What's New at MAS, [click here](#).

As usual, OHTAC and MAS welcome your questions and comments.

Please submit them to us at: OHTACinfo.moh@ontario.ca