

## DISABILITY TAX CREDIT FOR CHILDREN WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES

Diabetes often adds a financial strain to families. With or without insurance, the added costs of medication and doctor visits can be overwhelming. According to the [Canadian Diabetes Association](#) (2011), the financial burden of diabetes and its complications can be extensive and people with diabetes can incur medical costs that are 2-3 times higher than those without diabetes.

The [Canada Revenue Agency](#) has adopted the policy that the combination of the child and his or her caregiver's time spent on the specific activities necessary to administer insulin meets the 14-hour-per-week requirement for eligibility. Therefore, applicants age 15 years and younger with type 1 diabetes qualify for the DTC as long as the child's doctor or specialist certifies the Form T2201 *Disability Tax Credit Certificate* (see below).

### **My child is 16 years or older; is he/she eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)?**

The [Canada Revenue Agency](#) recognizes insulin as a life-sustaining therapy. Anyone with diabetes using insulin whose doctor certifies they spend an average of at least 14 hours per week on activities related to determining and administering insulin may be eligible for the DTC.

Your physician may have to provide a document stating how much time is spent on the tasks required for life-sustaining therapy. It is recommended that you provide your physician with a written example of a typical week to assist in the completion of the application.

### **What activities count towards the 14-hours per week requirement for eligibility?**

- monitoring blood glucose levels
- preparing and administering the insulin
- calibrating necessary equipment
- maintaining a logbook of blood glucose levels

### **What activities do not count towards the 14-hours per week?**

- counting carbohydrates
- exercising
- recuperating from hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia
- meal preparation

**How do I apply for the federal Disability Tax Credit (DTC)?**

- Access the T2201 *Disability Tax Credit Certificate* here: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201/t2201-10e.pdf](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201/t2201-10e.pdf)
- Further information is available in the Guide RC4064 *Information Concerning People with Disabilities*: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4064/rc4064-e.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4064/rc4064-e.html).

**Are there other tax credits or tax benefits available to people living with diabetes?**

- **Child Disability Benefit**: a child is eligible for the disability amount when a qualified practitioner certifies, on Form T2201, *Disability Tax Credit Certificate*, that the child has a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions, and the CRA approves the form. For more information, visit: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/dsblty-eng.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/dsblty-eng.html).
- For more information about the **Canada Child Tax benefit**, please visit: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/t4114/README.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/t4114/README.html).

If you would like further information regarding finances and type 1 diabetes, please contact the BCCH Diabetes Program Social Worker at 604-875-2345, local 7091.

See also our handout *Finances and Type 1 Diabetes*.