

Glycemic control has not been impacted by pandemic

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(HealthDay)—While diabetes-related outpatient visits and testing fell

during the pandemic, there was no negative association with medication fills or glycemic control among U.S. adults with diabetes, according to a research letter published online July 6 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Sadiq Y. Patel, Ph.D., from Harvard University in Boston, and colleagues used deidentified claims from OptumLabs Data Warehouse to identify adults with type 2 diabetes and continuous enrollment in commercial or Medicare Advantage health plans for 2019 (1,357,029 individuals) and 2020 (1,364,522 individuals).

The researchers found that across the entire [pandemic](#) period, adjusted use was lower in 2020 versus 2019 for outpatient visits (relative percent change, -2.6 percent), hemoglobin A1c testing (-6.5 percent), retinopathy testing (-18.8 percent), and nephropathy testing (-8.5 percent). However, [medication](#) fill rates were similar for the two time periods and levels of hemoglobin A1c were nearly identical for the two time periods.

"Mail-order pharmacies and pharmacy delivery services may have been key during the pandemic in ensuring patients receive their medications," the authors write. "Together, these would be consistent with [diabetes](#) disaster preparedness guidelines, which emphasize prioritizing access to medications over access to health care professionals during an emergency."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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