

International standards for type 2 diabetes remission established

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People with type 2 diabetes should be considered in remission after sustaining normal blood sugar levels for three months or more, according to a new consensus statement from the Endocrine Society, the European

Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), Diabetes UK and the American Diabetes Association, and co-published in *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, *Diabetologia*, *Diabetic Medicine* and *Diabetes Care*.

About 10% of the U.S. population has diabetes, and these numbers continue to rise. People with type 2 diabetes can achieve "remission" by sustaining normal blood sugar levels for at least three months without taking diabetes medication. There is still a lot of uncertainty around how long remission will last and what factors are associated with a relapse. A person may require ongoing support to prevent a relapse or a hyperglycemic episode, and the long-term effects of remission on mortality, heart health and quality of life are not well understood.

"Our international group of experts suggest an HbA1c (average blood sugar) level of less than 6.5% at least three months after stopping diabetes medication as the usual diagnostic criterion for diabetes remission," said statement author and Endocrine Society member Matthew Riddle of Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Ore. Riddle is chair of the Diabetes Remission Consensus writing group that developed the statement. "We also made suggestions for clinicians observing patients experiencing remission and discussed further questions and unmet needs regarding predictors and outcomes."

The authors developed the following criteria to help clinicians and researchers evaluate and study diabetes remission using more consistent terminology and methods:

1. Remission should be defined as a return of HbA1c to less than 6.5% that occurs spontaneously or following an intervention and that persists for at least three months in the absence of usual glucose-lowering pharmacotherapy.
2. When HbA1c is determined to be an unreliable marker of long-

term glycemic control, fasting plasma glucose of less than 126 mg/dL (

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