

Taking **control** of your **Diabetes** Improving **Self-Management**

According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA), approximately 21 million Americans have diabetes, and more people are being diagnosed every year.

Diabetes is associated with many health problems, disability, and premature death. Knowing how you can improve your lifestyle to better control diabetes is the key to reducing related complications, such as heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney disease, and amputations. Actions you can take include:

- **Monitor your blood sugar and take your prescribed medications:** By keeping track of your blood sugar, you can achieve better control of your diabetes. Always take your insulin or oral diabetes pills as prescribed by your health care provider.
- **Watch your diet carefully:** By eating well-balanced meals in the correct amounts, you can keep your blood glucose level as close to normal as possible. A dietician or books such as the ADA's *101 Nutrition Tips for People with Diabetes* can help.
- **Lose weight:** The ADA stresses that losing even a small amount of weight can reduce your risk of complications from diabetes. A dietician can help you find ways to eat the foods you like while reducing your intake of calories.
- **Increase physical activity:** A personal health coach can help you become more active. And it doesn't mean that you have to go to the gym; it can mean walking around your house or working in your yard. Exercise helps improve your strength, flexibility, and endurance.
- **Sleep well and reduce stress:** Getting the appropriate amount of rest and managing your stress will improve diabetes control.



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For more information about managing your diabetes, contact your health care provider, your Concentra health specialist, or you can visit the ADA's Web site at: www.diabetes.org.

