

TRAVELING WITH DIABETES SUPPLIES

Below is the most recent information generated by TSA regarding people traveling within the 50 states that need to board with diabetes medication, equipment, and supplies. TSA makes the following recommendations to airline passengers with diabetes and additional [Tips for Travelers](#) may be accessed from TSA's Web site.

Notify the screener that you have diabetes and are carrying your supplies with you. The following diabetes-related supplies and equipment are allowed through the checkpoint once they have been screened:

- Insulin and insulin loaded dispensing products (vials or box of individual vials, jet injectors, pens, infusers, and preloaded syringes) that are clearly identified and labeled.
- Unlimited number of unused syringes when accompanied by insulin or other injectable medication.
- Lancets, blood glucose meters, blood glucose meter test strips, alcohol swabs, meter-testing solutions.
- Insulin pump and insulin pump supplies (cleaning agents, batteries, plastic tubing, infusion kit, catheter, and needle).
- Glucagon emergency kit clearly identified and labeled.
- Urine ketone test strips.
- Unlimited number of used syringes when transported in Sharps disposal container or other similar hard-surface container.

Pump wearers

Although insulin pump manufacturers indicate that pumps can safely go through airport security systems, pump wearers may request a visual inspection rather than walking through the metal detector or being hand-wanded. Note that this may subject you to closer scrutiny or a "pat-down."

- Advise the screener that the insulin pump cannot be removed because it is connected to a catheter inserted under your skin.
- Insulin pumps and supplies must be accompanied by insulin with a label clearly identifying the medication.

If you experience hypoglycemia during the security procedure

Immediately inform screeners if you are experiencing low blood sugar and are in need of medical assistance.

If you request a visual inspection of your supplies

You have the option of requesting a visual inspection of your insulin and diabetes associated supplies. Keep in mind that:

- You must request a visual inspection before the screening process begins otherwise your medications and supplies will undergo x-ray inspection.
- You should separate your medication and associated supplies from your other property in a pouch or bag.
- Medications should be labeled so they are identifiable.
- In order to prevent contamination or damage to medication and associated supplies and/or fragile medical materials, you will be asked at the security checkpoint to display, handle and repack your own medication and associated supplies during the visual inspection process.
- Any medication and/or associated supplies that cannot be cleared visually must be submitted for x-ray screening. If you refuse, you will not be permitted to carry your medications and related supplies into the sterile area.

Contact TSA

If you have an immediate need while being screened, you should ask for a screener supervisor. You may also contact the TSA Contact Center to report unfair treatment or to obtain additional information by calling toll-free 866-289-9673 during the following hours of operation (All times are Eastern Standard Time):

- Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. -- 10 p.m.
- Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 10 a.m. -- 6 p.m.

[Complaints about discriminatory treatment](#) by federal security screeners should be directed to TSA. TSA accepts complaints by mail to Transportation Security Administration, TSA Headquarters, 12th Floor, Room 1203N, TSA-1, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590.

In addition to filing a complaint with a federal agency, passengers alleging discriminatory treatment by air carrier personnel (pilots, flight attendants, gate agents or check-in counter personnel) may download and print a complaint form and follow instructions provided by [DOT's Web site](#). They should also notify their [airline carrier](#). Other consumer complaints may be directed to the Department of Transportation's Office of Consumer Protection Division, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington, DC, 20590. More information on where passengers may file complaints for travel service problems, contact DOT by calling 1-800-255-1111.

The Association recommends packing at least twice the number of supplies needed during travel, and bringing a quick-acting source of glucose to treat low blood glucose, as well as an easy to carry snack such as a nutrition bar. Carry or wear medical identification and carry contact information for your physician while traveling. It may also be helpful to have contact information for a health care professional available at your destination, and be prepared to adjust medication when traveling in different time zones.

Source: American Diabetes Association

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