

Since that discovery, nearly 100 years ago, very few changes have been made to the formulation of insulin. And yet, prices have skyrocketed. Average yearly costs for a person on insulin were \$2,864 in 2012 and \$5,705 just 4 years later in 2016.

It's become commonplace to see posts on gofundme of folks scrounging up enough to pay for that month's supply of insulin. People are rationing and skipping doses to make it last just a little longer. And it's killing them.

Complications of diabetes can include

- cardiovascular disease
- nerve damage
- kidney damage, sometimes leading to kidney failure
- blindness
- poor blood flow and infections in the feet, leading to amputation
- hearing impairment
- depression

Rationing insulin can lead to diabetic shock or coma, and ketoacidosis, when the body burns fat for energy instead of glucose, which releases toxic ketones into the bloodstream and can damage multiple organ systems.

plans (per fiscal note). If we are going to do something for ourselves, there is no reason not to do it for everyone else. This only applies to about 18% of the population, so any negative effects are somewhat limited.

A few arguments from opponents are that if the insurance companies are limited in what they can charge, then the pharmaceutical companies will raise the prices to outrageous levels. “It could go from \$800 a vial to \$8000,” was one argument I heard. Quite frankly, that is nonsense. With the amount of attention on the issue nationwide, there is very little chance of companies being able to get away with something like this. Carefirst says they are working on a two-year plan, but how much longer can we make our citizens wait? The last is that we should let the Prescription Drug Affordability Board handle this. This is most certainly something they could address, but again, how much longer are we willing to let this go on?