



STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CORDELL HULL BUILDING
425 5th AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37247

May 19, 2004

Paul Tubiana
P.O. Box 21832
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-1832

Dear Mr. Tubiana:

Governor Bredesen has forwarded your correspondence to this office for a response. From your e-mail, I can tell that you are concerned about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes classification in Tennessee and that you are familiar with research related to diabetes classification and C-peptide testing. The Department of Health is also concerned about Diabetes especially with the increasing prevalence of this very devastating disease.

As you know there is currently research underway that is looking at diabetes type-classification in children. It is a very challenging issue. There are no definite answers yet, but researchers are on the right path to have some in the near future. The challenge is that if the C-peptide is very low, it is likely Type 1 diabetes; if the C-peptide is high, it is likely Type 2 diabetes. However, many patients have intermediate levels that do not lend themselves to an easy classification. Further, it is our understanding from our colleagues at Vanderbilt Medical Center's Endocrine Department, that as the numbers of young children are increasing that present with symptoms of diabetes, C-peptide testing is being utilized more frequently to delineate type 1 from type 2. However, C-Peptide testing does not yet appear to be a routine part of standard of care in the diagnosis of diabetes. In addition, as you correctly stated, the American Diabetes Association's current nomenclature uses Type 1 or Type 2.

You are to be commended for your efforts to inform the Governor of your knowledge and passion concerning Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes classification. Please stay involved with the issue and continue to bring Diabetes issues to the forefront in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Alisa M. Malone, M.S.P.
Director of Community Services

cc: Governor Bredesen