   (a) Every policy or contract of accident or health insurance, and every preferred
       provider benefit plan under G.S. 58-50-56, that is issued, renewed, or amended on or after
       October 1, 1997, shall provide coverage for medically appropriate and necessary services,
       including diabetes outpatient self-management training and educational services, and
       equipment, supplies, medications, and laboratory procedures used to treat diabetes. Diabetes
       outpatient self-management training and educational services shall be provided by a physician
       or a health care professional designated by the physician. The insurer shall determine who shall
       provide and be reimbursed for the diabetes outpatient self-management training and
       educational services. The same deductibles, coinsurance, and other limitations as apply to
       similar services covered under the policy, contract, or plan shall apply to the diabetes coverage
       required under this section.

   (b) For the purposes of this section, "physician" is a person licensed to practice in this
       State under Article 1 or Article 7 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes. (1997-225, s. 1;
       1997-519, s. 3.11.)