

History of Bayer HealthCare Diabetes Care

A company history of pioneering spirit is reflected in the influential technological “firsts” that Diabetes Care has brought to healthcare customers around the world.

In 1941, the company, under the name Miles Laboratories, revolutionized in vitro diagnostics when it launched Clinitest® effervescent urine sugar testing tablets, the first convenient and accurate test to detect the presence of reducing sugar in urine. In 1964, Miles scientists developed Dextrostix®, the first dry reagent blood sugar test, which enabled millions of people with diabetes to monitor blood sugar levels quickly and conveniently at home. Through the former Ames Division, Miles introduced the Ames Reflectance Meter, the first portable blood glucose meter, which evolved into the popular Glucometer® brand (now known as Ascensia®) of blood glucose monitoring systems.

Miles had been a member of the Bayer family since 1978, although, due to legal restrictions, was unable to use the parent company name in North America. The 1994 acquisition by Miles Inc. of Sterling Winthrop’s North American over-the-counter drug business returned to Bayer the rights to the Bayer Cross and the Bayer name in North America.

Also in 2002, Diabetes Care, then part of the Diagnostics Division, became a member of the worldwide Bayer HealthCare Group, combining the global activities of the Animal Health, Biological Products, Consumer Care, Diagnostics and Pharmaceuticals Divisions. More than 33,000 employees work for Bayer HealthCare worldwide. Bayer HealthCare is a subgroup of Bayer AG with annual sales amounting to some 9 billion euros. Bayer HealthCare’s aim is to discover and manufacture products that will improve human and animal health worldwide. These products enhance well-being and quality of life by diagnosing, preventing and treating diseases.

On June 1, 2004, the Diagnostics Division of Bayer HealthCare was divided into two entities — Bayer HealthCare, Diabetes Care and Bayer HealthCare Diagnostics Division — to accelerate Bayer HealthCare’s concentration on consumer health, and to afford both units greater operational flexibility in their respective markets. Diabetes Care is headquartered in Tarrytown, N.Y., U.S.A.

Innovations in Diabetes Management

Bayer HealthCare Diabetes Care has produced a formidable legacy of firsts in diabetes management:

- 1941** Bayer (formerly Miles Laboratories) developed Clinitest®, the first convenient tablet test for detection of reducing sugars in urine.
- 1956** Bayer developed Clinistix®, the first dip-and-read test for glucose in urine.
- 1964** Bayer developed Dextrostix®, the first test strip for glucose in blood.
- 1969** Through the former Ames division, Bayer introduced the Ames Reflectance Meter, the first portable blood glucose meter.
- 1985** Bayer developed Glucometer® II, the first blood glucose meter to provide a memory for results.
- 1986** Bayer introduced Glucometer® M, the first meter with event markers and a computer interface.

- 1987** Bayer introduced Glucofacts®, PC software for the analysis of data from the Glucometer® M.
- 1989** Bayer developed Glucofacts® Data Link, the first telephone modem to allow data from a home blood glucose meter to be sent electronically to a doctor.
- 1992** Bayer commercialized the first rapid Point-of-Care system for the measurement of HbA1c. Bayer introduced Glucometer Elite®, the first capillary gap or “sip-in” technology and first “low volume” (3 microliter) glucose monitoring system.
- 1997** Bayer was the first company to offer a quantitative point-of-care immunoassay method for microalbumin and creatinine in urine.
- 1997** Bayer introduced the Ascensia® Microlet Vaculance®, the first lancing device to enhance blood collection from sites other than the fingertips.
- 1997** Bayer introduced Glucometer® Dex® and Glucometer® Esprit®, the first consumer cartridge-based biosensor systems for blood glucose testing.
- 2003** Bayer introduced Ascensia® Contour®.
- 2004** Bayer introduced Ascensia® Breeze®.
- 2005** Ascensia® Breeze® Blood Glucose Monitoring System is the first blood glucose meter recognized by the Arthritis Foundation for a design that is user-friendly for the more than 8 million Americans with arthritis who also have diabetes. The Ease-of-Use Commendation followed thorough review and testing by an independent panel of individuals with arthritis.
- 2006** Bayer acquires Metrika Inc., maker of the first and only device for use both at home as well as in the professional setting for the monitoring of HbA1c.

2007 Bayer HealthCare further innovated diabetes management by being the first company to introduce a suite of blood glucose monitors with No Coding™ technology such as Breeze® and Contour®.

Today, Bayer HealthCare, Diabetes Care is a world leader in the rapidly growing self-testing market. As we move forward, we'll continue to set new standards in diabetes management with innovative blood glucose monitoring systems. Our mission continues with the knowledge that we are touching lives and fulfilling our goal of providing products that make a simple, positive, daily difference for people with diabetes.

