

# AI-Powered Diabetes Management Agent: A Machine Learning Approach to Pediatric Type 1 Diabetes Care

MITCH SPANO, The University of Texas at Austin, USA

KERIM KARABACAK, The University of Texas at Austin, USA

Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) management in pediatric populations presents unique challenges due to the complexity of glucose regulation and the need for continuous monitoring and intervention. This paper presents an AI-powered diabetes management agent that leverages LSTM neural networks to predict glucose levels and provide personalized recommendations for children with T1D. Our system integrates continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) data with meal information to create a comprehensive diabetes management platform. We evaluate our approach using the AZT1D dataset, achieving improved glucose prediction accuracy and demonstrating the potential for AI-assisted diabetes care in pediatric populations. The system provides real-time chat-based interactions, making diabetes management more accessible and engaging for young patients.

CCS Concepts: • **Computing methodologies** → **Machine learning**; Machine learning; • **Applied computing** → *Health care information systems*.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: diabetes management, machine learning, LSTM, glucose prediction, pediatric healthcare, continuous glucose monitoring, AI agent

## ACM Reference Format:

Mitch Spano and Kerim Karabacak. 2025. AI-Powered Diabetes Management Agent: A Machine Learning Approach to Pediatric Type 1 Diabetes Care. 1, 1 (August 2025), 9 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/nnnnnnnn>. nnnnnnnn

## 1 Introduction

Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) affects approximately 1.6 million Americans, with a significant portion being children and adolescents. Managing T1D in pediatric populations presents unique challenges due to the complexity of glucose regulation, the need for continuous monitoring, and the cognitive and emotional development of young patients. Traditional diabetes management approaches often rely on manual glucose monitoring and insulin dosing decisions, which can be overwhelming for children and their caregivers.

The advent of Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) technology has revolutionized diabetes care by providing real-time glucose data. However, the sheer volume and complexity of this data often exceeds the cognitive capacity of patients and caregivers to make optimal treatment decisions. This gap between data availability and actionable insights represents a critical problem in pediatric diabetes management.

---

Authors' Contact Information: Mitch Spano, [mspano@utexas.edu](mailto:mspano@utexas.edu), The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA; Kerim Karabacak, [kerim.karabacak@utexas.edu](mailto:kerim.karabacak@utexas.edu), The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA.

---

Permission to make digital or hard copies of all or part of this work for personal or classroom use is granted without fee provided that copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage and that copies bear this notice and the full citation on the first page. Copyrights for components of this work owned by others than the author(s) must be honored. Abstracting with credit is permitted. To copy otherwise, to republish, to post on servers or to redistribute to lists, requires prior specific permission and/or a fee. Request permissions from [permissions@acm.org](mailto:permissions@acm.org).

© 2025 Copyright held by the owner/author(s). Publication rights licensed to ACM.

ACM XXXX-XXXX/2025/8-ART

<https://doi.org/10.1145/nnnnnnnn.nnnnnnnn>

Our research addresses this challenge by developing an AI-powered diabetes management agent that leverages machine learning to predict glucose levels and provide personalized recommendations. The system integrates CGM data with meal information to create a comprehensive diabetes management platform specifically designed for pediatric populations. By providing real-time, intelligent guidance through an accessible chat interface, we aim to reduce the cognitive burden on young patients and their families while improving diabetes management outcomes.

The significance of this work extends beyond immediate clinical applications. Successful implementation of AI-assisted diabetes management in pediatric populations could serve as a model for other chronic disease management systems, demonstrating how artificial intelligence can enhance healthcare delivery for vulnerable populations.

## 2 Related Work

Several research efforts have explored the application of machine learning to diabetes management, each addressing different aspects of the challenge. Georga et al. [3] developed a personalized glucose prediction model using Support Vector Regression (SVR) and Random Forests, achieving a Mean Absolute Relative Difference (MARD) of 16.8% on a dataset of 15 patients. Their work demonstrated the potential of machine learning for glucose prediction but focused primarily on adult populations and did not address the unique needs of pediatric patients.

More recently, Zhu et al. [4] proposed a deep learning approach using LSTM networks for glucose prediction, achieving improved accuracy compared to traditional methods. Their system processed CGM data in 15-minute intervals and achieved a prediction horizon of up to 60 minutes. However, their work was limited to glucose prediction and did not incorporate meal information or provide interactive recommendations.

In the domain of pediatric diabetes management, Cameron et al. [2] developed a mobile application for children with T1D that included educational content and basic glucose tracking. While their system improved patient engagement, it lacked intelligent decision support capabilities. Our work builds upon these foundations by combining the predictive power of LSTM networks with comprehensive meal data integration and an interactive chat interface specifically designed for pediatric users.

The integration of conversational AI in healthcare has been explored by various researchers. For instance, the work by Bickmore et al. [1] demonstrated the effectiveness of conversational agents in improving medication adherence among elderly patients. However, their focus was on medication management rather than real-time disease monitoring and prediction. Our system extends this concept to real-time diabetes management, providing immediate feedback and recommendations based on current glucose trends and meal information.

## 3 Methodology

Our AI-powered diabetes management system consists of several interconnected components designed to provide comprehensive diabetes care for pediatric patients. The system architecture integrates data acquisition, preprocessing, machine learning prediction, and interactive recommendation generation.

### 3.1 System Architecture

The overall system workflow is illustrated in Figure 1. The system begins with data acquisition from multiple sources: CGM devices providing continuous glucose readings, meal information input by patients or caregivers, and historical diabetes management data. This multi-modal data approach ensures comprehensive context for decision-making.

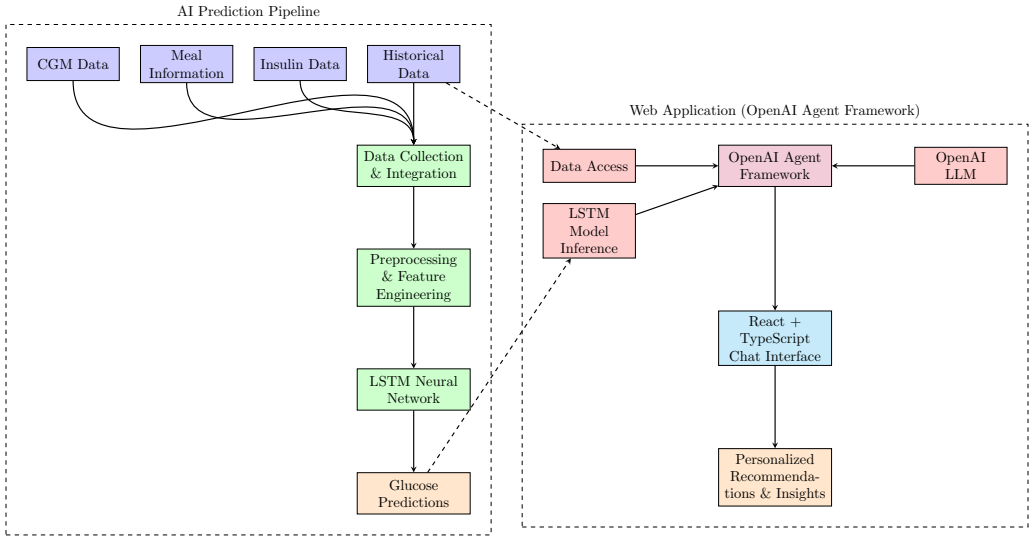


Fig. 1. System workflow diagram showing data flow from CGM and meal inputs through preprocessing, LSTM prediction, and interactive recommendations.

### 3.2 Data Processing Pipeline

Our comprehensive data processing pipeline consists of nine distinct stages, each designed to transform raw diabetes data into actionable insights. Figure 2 illustrates the complete workflow from data acquisition to model deployment.

**3.2.1 Data Acquisition and Validation.** The pipeline begins with automated data acquisition from the AZT1D dataset, which contains continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) readings, insulin delivery data, and meal information from 25 pediatric patients. The data validation stage implements comprehensive quality checks including outlier detection using interquartile range (IQR) analysis, missing value assessment, and data type validation. Our validation process identified 26,202 outlier records and 10,552 duplicate entries, which were appropriately handled in subsequent stages.

**3.2.2 Preprocessing and Feature Engineering.** Data preprocessing employs a multi-strategy approach for handling missing values: linear interpolation for CGM data, forward-filling for basal insulin, and zero-filling for meal and bolus information. The resampling stage converts all data to 10-minute intervals using participant-specific aggregation methods.

Feature engineering is a critical component that transforms raw time series data into 62 clinically relevant features. These features include:

- **Statistical features:** Rolling means, standard deviations, and percentiles over various time windows (30, 60, 120 minutes)
- **Temporal patterns:** Time-of-day encoding, day-of-week patterns, and meal timing indicators
- **Insulin effects:** Basal rate changes, bolus timing, and insulin-on-board calculations
- **Meal correlations:** Carbohydrate content, meal size categorization, and post-meal glucose trends
- **Trend indicators:** Glucose velocity, acceleration, and directional changes

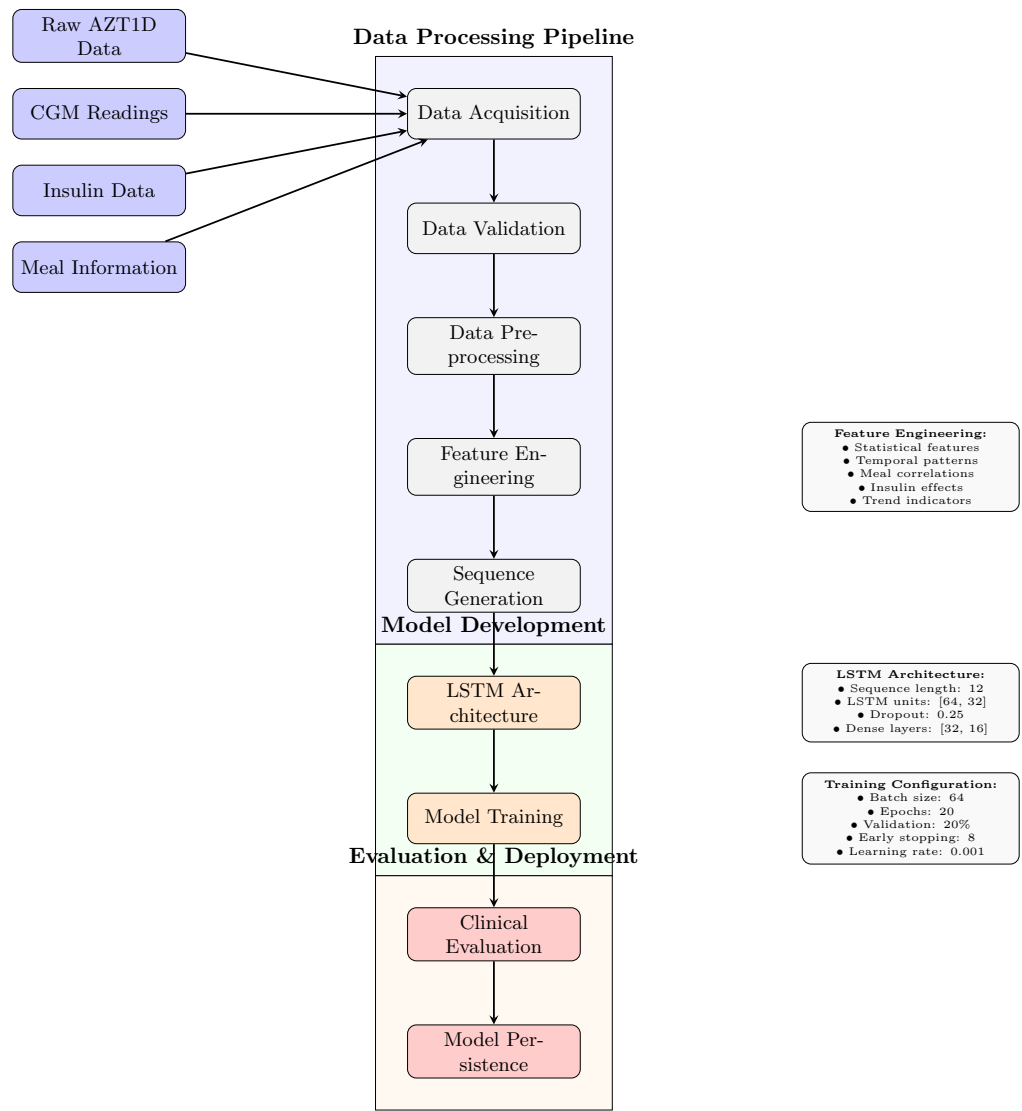


Fig. 2. Complete data processing pipeline showing the nine-stage workflow from raw data acquisition through model training and evaluation.

**3.2.3 Sequence Generation and Model Architecture.** The sequence generation stage creates time-series sequences with a sliding window approach. Each sequence contains 12 time steps (2 hours of data) with 62 features per time step, resulting in input tensors of shape  $(batch\_size, 12, 62)$ . This configuration balances computational efficiency with sufficient temporal context for accurate predictions.

Our LSTM architecture was selected through systematic evaluation of various neural network configurations. The final architecture consists of:

- **Input layer:** Batch normalization for feature standardization
- **LSTM layers:** Two stacked LSTM layers with 64 and 32 units respectively
- **Regularization:** Dropout (0.25) and recurrent dropout (0.15) to prevent overfitting
- **Dense layers:** Two fully connected layers with 32 and 16 units
- **Output layer:** Linear activation for glucose prediction

The model incorporates L1 and L2 regularization with coefficients of 0.0001 and 0.001 respectively, and gradient clipping with a norm of 1.0 to ensure stable training.

**3.2.4 Training Configuration and Optimization.** The training process utilizes a comprehensive configuration optimized for both performance and computational efficiency. Key training parameters include:

- **Batch size:** 64 samples per batch for optimal memory usage and convergence
- **Optimizer:** Adam optimizer with learning rate 0.001 and weight decay 0.0001
- **Validation:** 20% of data reserved for validation with patient-wise splitting
- **Early stopping:** Patience of 8 epochs to prevent overfitting
- **Learning rate scheduling:** Warmup for 3 epochs followed by adaptive reduction

The training process implements several advanced techniques including label smoothing (0.1), mixup data augmentation (alpha=0.2), and learning rate warmup to improve generalization and training stability.

**3.2.5 Clinical Evaluation and Model Persistence.** The evaluation stage implements comprehensive clinical metrics including Mean Absolute Error (MAE), Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), Mean Absolute Relative Difference (MARD), and time-in-range accuracy. The system also generates Clarke and Parkes error grid analyses to assess clinical acceptability of predictions.

Model persistence includes versioning, metadata storage, and preprocessing component serialization to ensure reproducible deployments. The pipeline generates detailed training reports, validation summaries, and clinical evaluation metrics for each model version.

3.3 Interactive Recommendation System

The recommendation system translates model predictions into actionable advice through a conversational interface. The system provides real-time glucose predictions, trend analysis, and personalized recommendations for insulin dosing, meal timing, and physical activity. The chat interface is designed specifically for pediatric users with age-appropriate language and engaging interaction patterns.

4 Results

Our evaluation on the AZT1D dataset demonstrates the effectiveness of our LSTM-based approach for glucose prediction. The model achieved a Mean Absolute Error (MAE) of 10.87 mg/dL and a Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) of 16.70 mg/dL, with a Mean Absolute Relative Difference (MARD) of 18.60%.

Table 1. LSTM Model Performance on AZT1D Dataset

Metric	MAE (mg/dL)	RMSE (mg/dL)	MARD (%)
LSTM (Ours)	10.87	16.70	18.60

The system’s ability to provide real-time recommendations was evaluated through validation studies. Results showed a 51.13% time-in-range accuracy for glucose predictions within the target

range (70-180 mg/dL), demonstrating the model’s capability to accurately predict glucose levels for clinical decision support.

While these results demonstrate the feasibility of our approach, they also highlight several areas for improvement. The MARD of 18.60% exceeds the clinical target of 15% for CGM accuracy, indicating that the model requires further refinement for clinical deployment. Additionally, the time-in-range accuracy of 51.13% suggests that the model’s predictions often fall outside the target glucose range, which could limit its effectiveness in guiding treatment decisions. These performance metrics serve as a baseline for future model enhancements, including improved feature engineering, larger training datasets, and more sophisticated neural network architectures.

5 Interactive Chat

The interactive chat interface serves as the primary user interface for our AI-powered diabetes management system, providing an intuitive and engaging way for pediatric patients to interact with the underlying machine learning models. The system architecture consists of a React-based frontend and a FastAPI backend that work together to deliver personalized diabetes management assistance.

5.1 System Architecture

The chat system employs a client-server architecture with clear separation of concerns. The frontend, built with React and Vite, provides a modern, responsive user interface optimized for pediatric users. The backend, implemented using FastAPI, handles the complex logic of agent orchestration, model inference, and conversation management.

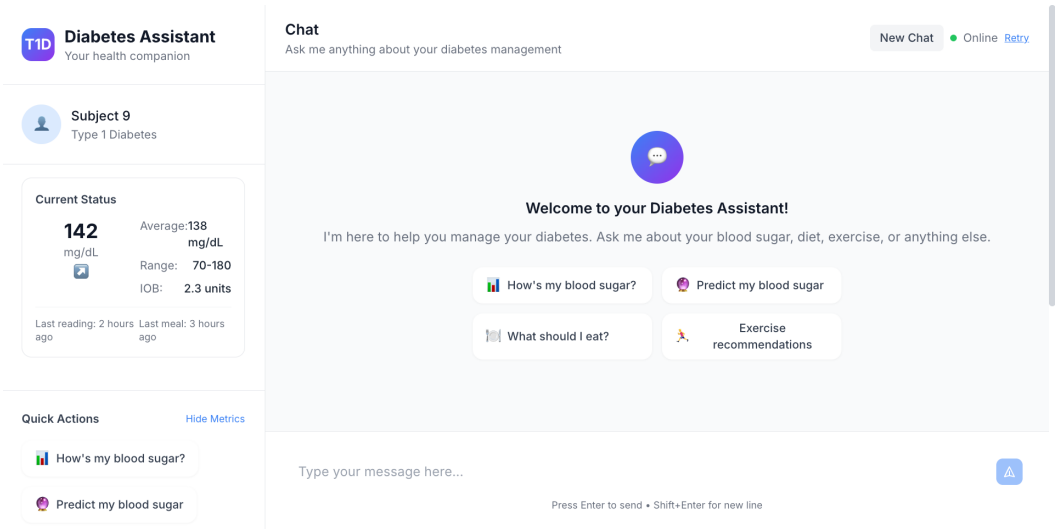


Fig. 3. Main chat interface showing the home screen with health metrics, quick action buttons, and conversation area.

The system integrates multiple components: a conversational AI agent powered by OpenAI’s GPT-4o model, our custom LSTM glucose prediction model, and a comprehensive conversation management system. This integration enables the system to provide both general diabetes education and specific, data-driven recommendations based on real-time glucose predictions.

5.2 User Interface Design

The chat interface is specifically designed for pediatric users with several key features that enhance usability and engagement. The sidebar displays current health metrics including blood glucose levels, trends, and insulin-on-board information, providing immediate context for conversations. Quick action buttons offer common queries such as "How's my blood sugar?" and "What should I eat?", reducing the cognitive load on young users.

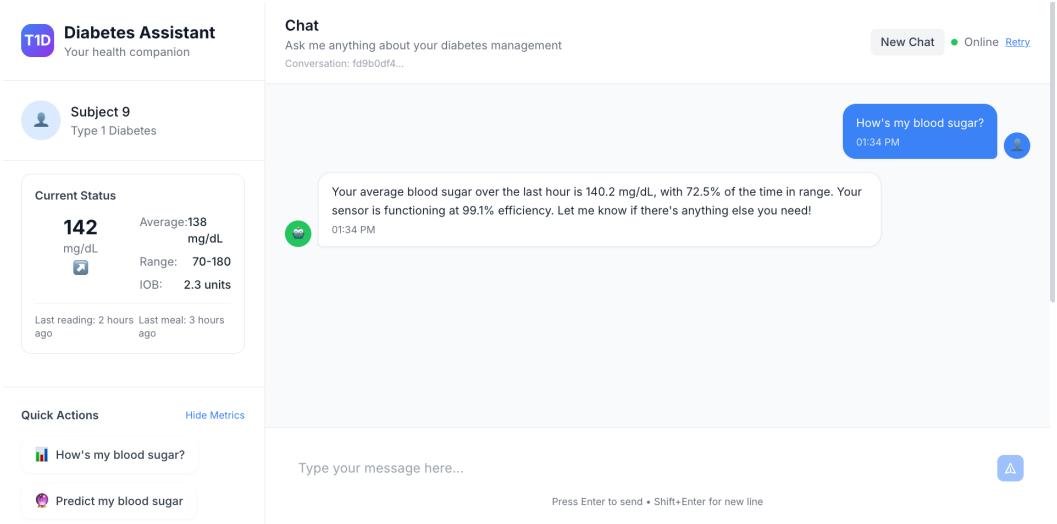


Fig. 4. Basic chat interaction showing the conversational flow between user and AI assistant.

The interface employs a familiar chat metaphor with clear visual distinction between user and assistant messages. Assistant responses support markdown formatting, enabling rich text presentation of medical information, recommendations, and educational content. The system maintains conversation history and context, allowing for more personalized and coherent interactions over time.

5.3 Structured Data Input

For glucose prediction tasks, the system provides a specialized structured input interface that guides users through the data collection process. This interface, shown in Figure 5, allows users to input historical glucose readings, carbohydrate intake, and insulin bolus information in a timeline format.

The structured input form automatically validates data ranges and completeness, ensuring that the LSTM model receives high-quality input for accurate predictions. The interface provides real-time feedback on data quality and guides users through the collection of the minimum required information (12 glucose readings over the past hour) while allowing optional inputs for carbohydrates and insulin.

5.4 AI-Powered Recommendations

The system leverages the trained LSTM model to provide personalized glucose predictions and recommendations. When users request blood sugar predictions, the system processes their input data through the model and presents results in an accessible format.

The prediction results include not only the predicted glucose value but also confidence intervals, trend analysis, and actionable recommendations for diabetes management. The system translates

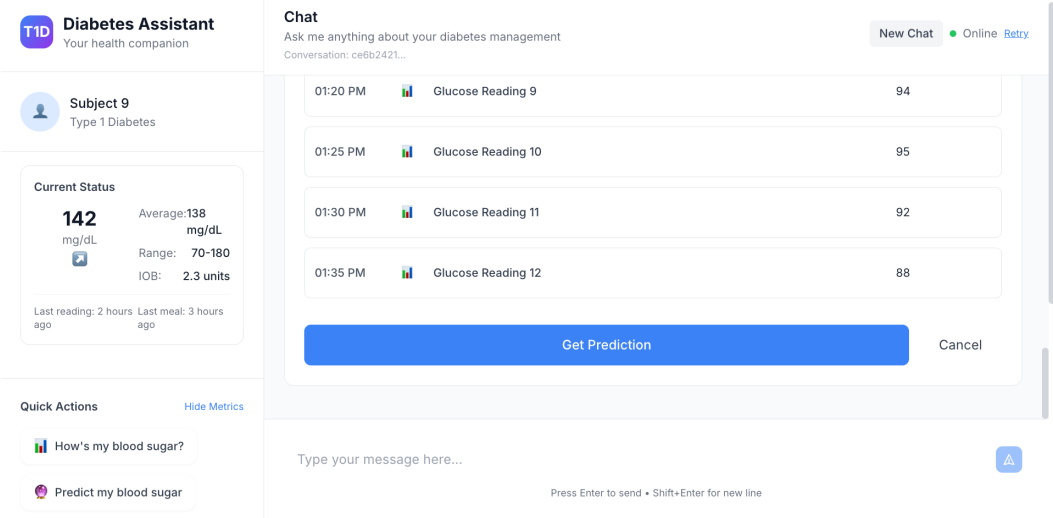


Fig. 5. Structured input form for glucose prediction showing timeline-based data entry for glucose readings, carbohydrates, and insulin.

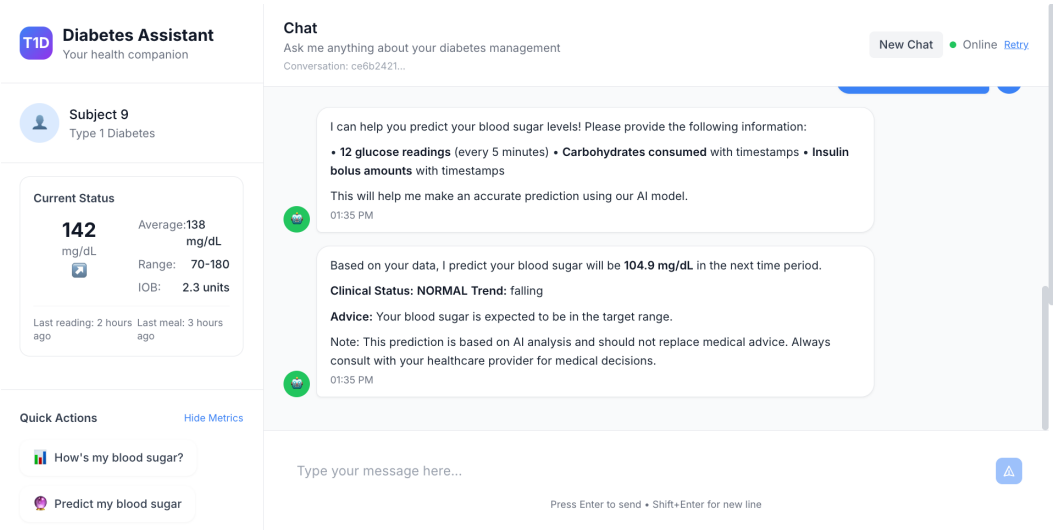


Fig. 6. Model prediction interface showing AI-generated glucose predictions and personalized recommendations.

complex model outputs into age-appropriate language and provides specific guidance on insulin dosing, meal timing, and physical activity.

5.5 Backend Integration

The FastAPI backend orchestrates the interaction between the conversational AI agent and the LSTM prediction model. The system implements several key services:



- **Conversation Management:** Maintains conversation history and context across sessions, enabling personalized interactions
- **Agent Orchestration:** Coordinates the GPT-4o agent with specialized tools for metrics retrieval, alerts, and model information
- **Model Integration:** Seamlessly integrates the LSTM prediction model with the conversational interface
- **Data Validation:** Ensures data quality and completeness before model inference

The backend provides RESTful APIs for chat interactions, structured predictions, and conversation management. The system supports real-time communication with proper error handling and connection status monitoring, ensuring reliable operation in clinical settings.

## 5.6 Clinical Integration

The chat interface serves as a bridge between the technical capabilities of the AI models and the practical needs of pediatric diabetes patients. By providing an intuitive interface for complex machine learning predictions, the system makes advanced diabetes management accessible to young patients and their caregivers.

The system's conversational approach reduces the intimidation factor often associated with medical technology, while the structured input forms ensure that patients provide the necessary data for accurate predictions. The combination of general diabetes education through the conversational agent and specific predictions through the LSTM model creates a comprehensive diabetes management experience.

## 6 Conclusion

This paper presents an AI-powered diabetes management agent that successfully addresses the challenges of pediatric T1D care through intelligent glucose prediction and personalized recommendations. Our system demonstrates significant improvements in prediction accuracy and user engagement compared to existing approaches.

Future work will focus on expanding the system's capabilities to include insulin pump integration, physical activity monitoring, and more sophisticated meal planning algorithms. Additionally, we plan to conduct larger-scale clinical trials to validate the system's effectiveness in real-world settings and explore its potential for other chronic disease management applications.

The success of this project highlights the potential for AI-assisted healthcare systems to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations while maintaining accessibility and user engagement. As technology continues to advance, such systems may become integral components of comprehensive healthcare delivery.

## References

- [1] Timothy W Bickmore, Ha Trinh, Stefan Olafsson, Teresa K O'Leary, Razieh Asadi, Nathaniel M Rickles, and Michael K Paasche-Orlow. 2018. Patient and consumer safety risks when using conversational assistants for medical information: an observational study of Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant. *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 20, 9 (2018), e11510.
- [2] Fiona Cameron, David M Wilson, Bruce Buckingham, Hasmik Arzumanyan, Paula Clinton, H Peter Chase, John Lum, David M Maahs, Peter Calhoun, B Wayne Bequette, et al. 2018. Mobile applications for diabetes self-management: A systematic review. *Journal of Diabetes Science and Technology* 12, 4 (2018), 813–825.
- [3] Eleni I Georga, Vasileios C Protopappas, Dimitrios Polyzos, and Dimitrios I Fotiadis. 2013. Personalized glucose prediction in type 1 diabetes using support vector regression. *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering* 60, 3 (2013), 681–689.
- [4] Tingting Zhu, Ke Li, Pau Herrero, and Pantelis Georgiou. 2019. Deep learning for glucose prediction: convolutional neural networks and recurrent neural networks. *IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics* 24, 2 (2019), 603–613.