

## DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

# Shortage of GLP-1 receptor agonists used in the management of type 2 diabetes semaglutide, dulaglutide, liraglutide, exenatide

### ISSUE

- There are very limited supplies of all glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) licensed in the management of Type 2 diabetes
- Supply is not expected to return to normal until at least mid-2024
- Supply issues are as a result of increased demand for both licensed and off-label indications

### ADVICE

- Clinical Guidance from the Primary Care Diabetes Society (PCDS) and Association of British Clinical Diabetologists (ABCD) should be used in conjunction with [NICE NG28](#)
- GLP-1 RAs should only be prescribed for their licensed indication.
- Avoid initiating people with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) on GLP-1 RAs for the duration of the GLP1-RA national shortage. This will allow existing users to continue with their prescriptions. An alternative treatment needs to be considered for those patients who would have otherwise been started on a GLP-1RA
- Review the need for prescribing a GLP-1 RA agent and stop treatment if no longer required due to not achieving desired clinical effect as per [NICE NG28](#)
- Avoid switching between brands of GLP-1 RAs, including between injectable and oral forms.
- Where a higher dose preparation of GLP-1 RA is not available, do not substitute by doubling up a lower dose preparation.
- Where an alternative glucose lowering therapy needs to be considered, use the principles of shared decision making as per [NICE NG197](#) in conjunction with Clinical Guidance
- Where there is reduced access to GLP-1 RAs, support people with type 2 diabetes to access to structured education and weight management programmes where available.
- Limit prescribing to minimise risk to the supply chain whilst acknowledging the needs of the patient.

### ACTIONS

- All clinicians to be aware of the national shortage and follow the guidance above seeking advice from the Trust Diabetes and Endocrinology team as required.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR WARD PHARMACY TEAM  
OR THE PHARMACY DEPARTMENT (City ext. 5263; Sandwell ext. 3783)**

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