

UPDATED 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 for the management of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) due an increased demand for both licensed and off-label indications.
- Supply is not expected to return to normal until at least the end of 2024

ADVICE

The following guidance issued in the previous notice still applies:

- GLP-1 RAs should only be prescribed for their licensed indication.
- 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.
- Do not switch between strengths of a GLP-1 RAs solely based on availability.
- 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.
- Do not prescribe excessive quantities; limit prescribing to minimise risk to the supply chain whilst acknowledging the needs of the patient.

There have been changes in the availability of preparations as outlined below:

- **Rybelsus® (semaglutide)** tablets are now available in sufficient quantities to support initiation of GLP1 RA treatment in people T2DM in whom new initiation of GLP-1 RA therapy would be clinically appropriate.
- **Byetta® (exenatide)** 5micrograms/0.02ml and 10micrograms/0.04ml solution for injection 1.2ml pre-filled pens will be discontinued in March 2024.
- **Victoza® (liraglutide)** continues to be out of stock and further stock is not expected until end of 2024.

- **Saxenda® (liraglutide) and Wegovy® (semaglutide)** remain available on the NHS via specialist weight management services

ACTIONS

- All clinicians to be aware of the national shortage and follow the guidance and actions seeking advice from the Trust Diabetes and Endocrinology team as required.
- Only prescribe GLP-1 RAs for licensed indications.
- Do not prescribe GLP-1 RAs licensed for T2DM for off-label indications. Existing stock must be conserved for patients with T2DM to mitigate the risk of impaired access to treatment and increased risk in diabetes related complications.
- Prescribe Rybelsus® tablets for new initiations of a GLP-1 RA following NICE NG28.
- Identify patients prescribed Byetta® and Victoza® injections and, in line with NICE NG28, switch to Rybelsus® tablets.
- Counsel patients on any changes in drug, formulation, and dose regimen where appropriate (see additional information below).

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

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