

To: South East London colleagues

7 July 2023

Ongoing supply issues with Glucagon Like Peptide -1 (GLP-1) Analogues

The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) released a [Medication Supply Notification](#) (MSN) for all GLP-1 analogues licensed for the management of Type 2 diabetes.

There have been ongoing supply issues with Ozempic (semaglutide) and Trulicity (dulaglutide) since September 2022. There are now supply issues affecting **all** GLP-1 analogues. Supplies of all GLP-1 preparations therefore are now limited and are expected to be intermittently disrupted until **mid-2024**. This includes Trulicity (dulaglutide), Bydureon and Byetta (exenatide), Victoza (liraglutide), Ozempic and Rybelsus (semaglutide).

There are also reported supply problems with Saxenda (liraglutide) for weight management which is prescribed in secondary care (red listed) for patients within tier 3 and 4 weight management services.

During this period patients should NOT be newly initiated on GLP-1 analogues.

Actions for clinicians in primary and secondary care:

- GLP-1 analogues should **only be prescribed for licensed indications**.
- Review and stop GLP-1 analogues if patients do not achieve a desired clinical effect:
 - GLP-1 analogues in Type 2 diabetes: reduction of at least 11 mmol/mol [1.0%] in HbA1c and weight loss of at least 3% of initial body weight in 6 months.
 - Saxenda for weight management: 5% weight loss of initial body weight at 12 weeks of maximum dose. .
- **Do not** switch between brands of GLP-1s including injectable and oral form if patients are unable to get hold of their regular prescription.
- **Do not** substitute higher doses by doubling up lower dose preparations.
- Ensure quantities prescribed are appropriate and there is no excessive prescribing.

Where patients are unable to source their regular prescription for Type 2 diabetes:

- Consider alternative glucose lowering therapies, please see [Primary Care Diabetes Society \(PCDS\) Guidance](#) and the [SEL Type 2 diabetes Glycaemic Control Management Pathway](#) for treatment options.
- If a particular GLP-1 preparation is known to be out of stock, proactively identify patients established on the affected preparation and prioritise for review, see [PCDS Guidance](#).
- If patient is required to start insulin please see [SPS guidance](#) for which insulins are **unable** to support the shortage, otherwise please use usual formulary choices.
- Patient friendly information regarding the shortage can be found at [FAQs – GLP-1 RA shortages | Diabetes UK](#).

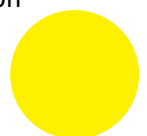
Unfortunately, there is no alternative product to Saxenda (Liraglutide) in weight management services, please identify patients with upcoming prescriptions and notify them of the temporary supply disruption.

Contacts:

Novo Nordisk's (Ozempic, Rybelsus, Saxenda, Victoza) Medical Information team can be contacted on 0800 023 2573.

1 Chair: Richard Douglas CB

Chief Executive Officer: Andrew Bland



Eli Lilly's (Trulicity) Medical information team can be contacted on 01256315000
AstraZeneca (Byetta and Bydureon) Medical Information team can be contacted on 0800 783 0033

Information contained in this document was correct at time of publication, however is constantly under review. As such, please see the following [link](#) for the latest information.

References:

1. Department of Health and Social Care Medicines Supply Notification MSN/2023/061 'GLP-1 receptor agonists* used in the management of type 2 diabetes' 27/06/2023
2. Department of Health and Social Care Medicines Supply Notification MSN/2022/079 'Dulaglutide (Trulicity) 0.75mg, 1.5mg, 3mg and 4.5mg solution for injection devices' 30/9/2022
3. Department of Health and Social Care Medicines Supply Notification MSN/2022/080 'Semaglutide (Ozempic) 1mg/0.74ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled disposable device' 30/9/2022
4. South East London [GLP-1 analogue pathway](#)
5. Expert local opinion

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