

Policy Statement: Prescribing of GLP-1 Analogues for Managing Weight Loss in Overweight and Obese Patients

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Intended audience	All Prescribing Clinicians across primary and secondary care services	
Superseded documents	n/a	
Stakeholders consulted prior to ratification		
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Previous reviews	n/a	
Changes made during latest review	n/a	

Manx Care DOES NOT support the prescribing of GLP-1 analogues for the management of weight loss in overweight and obese patients

Manx Care has reviewed the use of GLP-1 Analogues for Managing Weight Loss in Overweight and Obese Patients. GLP-1 analogues have traditionally been prescribed for type 2 diabetes mellitus. One of the advantages of this group of drugs for diabetic patients is weight loss. Two GLP-1 analogues, namely liraglutide (Saxenda) and semaglutide (Wegovy) have now been licensed for weight loss as an adjunct to a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity for weight management.

In the UK these drugs have undergone NICE TA consultation and have recently been approved for NHS prescribing for patients meeting very specific criteria, including only being prescribable as part of a specialist weight management service (Tier 3 or 4) with multidisciplinary input (NICE 2022).

Manx Care have consulted on the NHS prescribing of a number of NICE TA drugs, including GLP-1 analogues. At present, the Isle of Man does not have the required specialist weight management service as specified by NICE to provide patients with the maximum support they will require. Manx Care takes the safety of its patients very seriously and therefore would have to ensure that the support mechanism of a specialist weight management service is in place before considering making GLP-1 available for prescribing. With this in

mind and the annual funding cost per patient for these drugs, up to £7,280/year (excluding costs for paraphernalia), Manx Care currently cannot commit to the funding of GLP-1 analogues for weight loss and therefore does not support the prescribing of these drugs on the National Health Service.

For patients requiring support with weight loss, Manx Care funds and supports the use of other evidence based services and medicines. Patients over 18 years with a BMI ≥ 30 are now able to self-refer to Weight Watchers for a free 12 week supported weight loss programme. Drug treatment with Orlistat is also available for prescribing with support and regular review as second line to dietary and physical activity interventions as per NICE guidance (NICE CKS, 2022).

Saxenda® or Wegovy® are not interchangeable with the other licensed brands of liraglutide (Victoza®) or semaglutide (Ozempic®), which are only licensed for the management of diabetes. Victoza® and Ozempic® are not licensed as a pharmacological treatment options for weight management and should not be used for this indication.

REFERENCES AND/OR RESOURCES

1. NICE recommends new drug for people living with obesity 08/02/2022
<https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/nice-recommends-new-drug-for-people-living-with-obesity>
2. NICE CKS: Obesity September 2022 <https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/obesity/>
3. Electronic Medicines Compendium - Saxenda 6 mg/mL solution for injection in pre-filled pen <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/2313/smpc#ORIGINAL>
4. 3. Electronic Medicines Compendium - Wegovy 1 mg, FlexTouch solution for injection in pre-filled pen <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/13801/smpc#gref>