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New Pathways for Managed Access of Glucose Monitoring Devices

Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) representatives with colleagues from the Diabetes Network have recently issued two [pathways](#) for the managed access of continuous and flash glucose monitoring devices. There are two sensors listed on the pathways as detailed in the table.

Sensor Name	Sensor Life	Pack Sizes	Maximum quantity to prescribe
Dexcom One® (CGM)	10 days	Pack size 1 AND Pack size 3	Maximum 3 sensors every 30 days
Freestyle Libre 2® (FGM)	14 days	Pack size 1	Maximum 2 sensors every 28 days



Patients will be supplied with their first Dexcom One® transmitter by Trusts. The transmitter requires replacement every three months. These are available for community pharmacies to order free of charge from Alliance Healthcare - a prescription is not required. Patients will be notified via the transmitter three weeks prior to needing a replacement.

Actions for GP practices

- Continuous or Flash Glucose Monitoring Devices should only be prescribed following recommendation from Trust diabetes teams - **GP practices should not initiate prescriptions for these devices**
- Upon recommendation from Trusts, GP practices should prescribe a **maximum of one month's supply** to suitable patients
- Extra care should be taken when prescribing Dexcom One® to ensure that a maximum of three sensors are prescribed per month, as there are two different pack sizes available (see table)
- Patients should be advised where problems occur with the application of sensors they should contact the manufacturer for advice and/or replacements
- Freestyle Libre 1® sensors will be discontinued by 31st December 2022, therefore any patients who are



prescribed these sensors should be switched to Freestyle Libre 2® device as per advice in [letter](#)

Actions for Community Pharmacists

- Pharmacies that have patients who are prescribed Dexcom One® sensors, should ensure that they have an adequate stock of transmitters to supply as replacement on request
- If more than three sensors of Dexcom One® (in total) have been prescribed per month, the relevant GP practice should be alerted and the quantity adjusted as agreed
- FreeStyle Libre 2® sensors can be ordered in the usual way via the portal:

<https://www.freestylelibrepharmacyportal.co.uk/>

Liothyronine Prescribing

The [NI Formulary](#) does not recommend prescribing of liothyronine (T3) for the treatment of hypothyroidism. This reflects National recommendations that there is insufficient evidence to support its use. Levothyroxine (T4) is the recommended medication as it is suitable for once daily dosing due to its long half-life, and provides stable and physiological quantities of thyroid hormones for patients requiring replacement therapy.

Prescribers in primary care should not initiate liothyronine. However there are a minority of cases where liothyronine (T3) will be considered appropriate for a patient by a Health Service endocrine specialist in secondary care. In these circumstances a GP may be asked to prescribe this medicine in line with the

[liothyronine shared care guideline](#) .

Liothyronine Product	Cost per 28 doses
5 mcg Tablets	£99.47
5mcg Capsules	£55.00
10mcg Tablets	£152.44
10mcg Capsules	£65.00
20mcg Tablets	£56.19
20mcg Capsules	£55.00

Northern Ireland Drug Tariff. November 2022

A capsule formulation of liothyronine has been approved by the MHRA. This is the product of choice for initiation in the limited circumstances where liothyronine is indicated because it is a licensed product and is a more cost-effective alternative to tablets (see table). GP practices should carry out a formulation switch from liothyronine tablets to capsules where appropriate as these are bioequivalent products. A [patient information letter template](#) is available on the Primary Care Intranet to support the switch. Practices should also communicate planned changes with local community pharmacies in advance, to ensure consistent patient information and to assist with stock management.

Prescribing of thyroid extracts (e.g. Armour Thyroid, ERFA Thyroid), compounded thyroid hormones, iodine-containing preparations and dietary supplementation for primary hypothyroidism is not supported as the safety, quality and efficacy of these products cannot be assured.

Enoxaparin – Prescribe by brand

The MHRA recommends that biological medicines such as enoxaparin must be **prescribed by brand name**, and that the brand specified on the prescription should be dispensed in order to avoid inadvertent switching. Although enoxaparin is on the [Generic Exceptions list](#), recent prescribing data shows that 45% of all prescriptions in Northern Ireland are issued for the generic form of the drug.

Prescribers and community pharmacists should take action to ensure that all **enoxaparin is prescribed and dispensed by brand** as outlined in the [October 2021 Medicines Management Newsletter](#). Most Trusts across NI are now dispensing Inhixa[®] as the brand of choice.



NICE GUIDANCE

- [NICE TA799](#) Faricimab for treating diabetic macular oedema
- [NICE TA800](#) Faricimab for treating wet age-related macular degeneration
- [NICE TA804](#) Teduglutide for treating short bowel syndrome
- [NICE TA828](#) Ozanimod for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis
- [NICE TA829](#) Upadacitinib for treating active ankylosing spondylitis
- [NICE TA831](#) Olaparib for previously treated BRCA mutation-positive hormone-relapsed metastatic prostate cancer

MANAGED ENTRY DECISIONS

Dupilumab (Dupixent [®])	renal cell carcinoma	(Lynparza [®]) Azacitadine (Onureg [®])
Cannabinoid (Sativex [®])	Zanubrutinib (Brukinsa [®])	Potassium bicarbonate + potassium citrate
Nivolumab (Opdivo [®])	Tafasitamab (Minjuvi [®])	Relugolix + estradiol + norethisterone
Tofacitinib (Xeljanz [®])	Ozanimod (Zeposia [®])	
Pembrolizumab (Keytruda [®]) - melanoma	Olaparib	
Pembrolizumab (Keytruda [®]) -		

See NI Formulary
[Managed Entry section](#)

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This newsletter has been produced for GPs and pharmacists by the Regional Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team. If you have any queries or require further information on the contents, please contact one of the [Pharmacy Advisors](#) .