

## Liraglutide/Saxenda<sup>®</sup> for Weight Management Updated Information

This information supersedes previous communications regarding liraglutide prescribing issued May 2021.

### Background

- Liraglutide is a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) analogue. It is administered by subcutaneous injection.
- There are two licensed liraglutide preparations available in the UK – Victoza<sup>®</sup> and Saxenda<sup>®</sup> which despite being the same strength and formulation have **different licensed indications**. The table below provides information regarding the formulary status of the two preparations.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the [Scottish Medicines Consortium \(SMC\)](#) issued updated advice regarding the use of liraglutide/Saxenda<sup>®</sup> as a weight management medication (adjunct to a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity). Saxenda<sup>®</sup> has been accepted for **restricted use** in defined adult patient populations and patients should be treated in a specialist weight management service.
- NHS Grampian is currently reviewing the SMC advice regarding the prescribing of liraglutide/Saxenda<sup>®</sup>. As such, until the advice is reviewed and the appropriate specialist service is consulted, NHS Grampian do not support the prescribing of liraglutide/Saxenda<sup>®</sup> for weight management.
- Selected community pharmacies are already offering the supply of Saxenda<sup>®</sup> via a private service for the purposes of weight management.

### Recommendation for primary care teams

- Requests for liraglutide/Saxenda<sup>®</sup> to be prescribed for weight management should be declined and advised that recently updated SMC guidance is under review.
- Requests to prescribe liraglutide/Saxenda<sup>®</sup> from patients who are / have previously received treatment under a private service should be declined and patients advised that recently updated SMC guidance is under review. It should be noted that the SMC recommendations are likely to be more restrictive than treatment prescribed / supplied via a private service.
- When prescribing liraglutide for a formulary approved indication, prescribe by the brand name appropriate for the indication i.e. Victoza<sup>®</sup> for diabetes (ScriptSwitch messaging has been updated to support this).

### Recommendation for community pharmacy teams

- Where liraglutide is prescribed generically and the prescribed indication is not clear, e.g. patient is not known to have Type 2 diabetes mellitus, the indication should be confirmed with the prescriber to ensure dispensing of the correct brand of liraglutide in line with licensed indication.
- Where patients seek advice regarding NHS prescribing of Saxenda<sup>®</sup> make them aware that recently updated SMC guidance is under review by NHS Grampian and as such prescribing is not permitted at this time.

## Medication information

<a href="#">Victoza®</a>	<a href="#">Saxenda®</a>
Licensed for use in Type 2 diabetes mellitus.	Licensed for weight management (in conjunction with dietary measures and increased physical activity).
6mg/mL solution for injection 3mL pre-filled pens.	6mg/mL solution for injection 3mL pre-filled pens.
<p>Included in <a href="#">Grampian Area Formulary</a> for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes mellitus under specialist supervision.</p> <p>Treatment should only be initiated in Primary Care on the recommendation of a consultant/specialist (including general practitioners with special interest).</p>	<p>Currently under review by the Formulary Group and therefore classed as 'Non Formulary' on the <a href="#">Grampian Area Formulary</a>.</p> <p>As such, Saxenda® should <b>not</b> be prescribed in NHS Grampian for weight management.</p>
Accepted for restricted use within NHS Scotland by the <a href="#">Scottish Medicines Consortium</a> .	Accepted for restricted use within NHS Scotland by the <a href="#">Scottish Medicines Consortium</a> .

## Summary

Until a review of the SMC advice has been undertaken and the appropriate specialist service is consulted, NHS Grampian do not support the prescribing of liraglutide/Saxenda® for weight management.