

Liraglutide/Saxenda[®] and Semaglutide/Wegovy[®] for Weight Management: Updated Information

Summary

Liraglutide (Saxenda[®]) and semaglutide (Wegovy[®]) should **not** be prescribed by primary care clinicians for the purposes of weight management.

Background

Liraglutide and semaglutide are glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) agonists which are licensed for use in the management of type 2 diabetes and for weight management (adjunct to a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity). Different branded products have difference licensed indications (see table below).

	Liraglutide	Semaglutide
Branded product licensed for type 2 diabetes	Victoza [®]	Ozempic [®]
Branded product licensed for weight management	Saxenda [®]	Wegovy [®]

Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) advice regarding the prescribing of liraglutide (Saxenda[®]) for the purposes of weight management specifies that patients should be treated in a specialist weight management service. SMC advice has not yet been published for semaglutide (Wegovy[®]). As such, until the appropriate specialist service has considered this advice, NHS Grampian **do not** support the prescribing of liraglutide (Saxenda[®]) and semaglutide (Wegovy[®]) for the purposes of weight management.

Selected community pharmacies are offering the supply of Saxenda[®] via a private service for the purposes of weight management.

Recommendation for Primary Care Teams

Requests for liraglutide (Saxenda[®]) or semaglutide (Wegovy[®]) to be prescribed for weight management should be **declined** and patients advised that prescribing is not currently supported by NHS Grampian.

Requests to prescribe liraglutide or semaglutide for the purposes of weight management from patients who are / have previously received treatment under a private service should be **declined** and patients advised that prescribing is not currently supported by NHS Grampian. 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 or semaglutide for the management of type 2 diabetes, prescribe by the appropriate brand name for the indication i.e. liraglutide as Victoza[®] or semaglutide as Ozempic[®].

Recommendation for Community Pharmacy Teams

Patients seeking advice regarding NHS prescribing of liraglutide (Saxenda[®]) or semaglutide (Wegovy[®]) for the purposes of weight management should be made aware that recently updated SMC guidance is under review by NHS Grampian and as such prescribing is **not** supported at this time.