

## Shortages of Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists

### Shortage information

The information below is pertaining to the prescribing and supply of all GLP-1 medications.

### Stock information & availability

- Supplies are not out of stock, but intermittently available.
- It is anticipated that supply challenges will continue until mid-2024.
- Please see [Specialist Pharmacist Service](#) updates for most recent supply details.

### Prescribing in NHS Grampian

- NHS Grampian have a total of 558 patients who will potentially be impacted by these supply constraints (based on ePrescribing data April 2022 – June 2022, run 29/06/23).

### Actions for primary care

- No proactive switching should be undertaken.
- No new patients should be started on a GLP-1 for the duration of supply issues.
- Where it has been confirmed that stock cannot be procured clinicians should review information below to decide on the most appropriate course of action. Any changes to prescribing should be for the duration of the shortage only.

### Prescribing alternatives

*The diabetes specialist service have been consulted and provided the information below regarding the ongoing GLP-1 shortages:*

*Note: this information is for prescribing of GLP-1 medications for Type 2 diabetes only. GLP-1 medicines should not be prescribed for any other indication (i.e. weight loss) within NHS Grampian.*

#### Review need for GLP-1

- GLP-1 prescribing should only be continued if there has been a beneficial metabolic response i.e. at least 11mmol/mol fall in HbA1c and weight loss of at least 3% of initial body weight in first 6 months of use.
- Where beneficial metabolic response is not identified GLP-1 should be discontinued.

Where it has been confirmed GLP-1 still needs to be prescribed:

- As supply constraints are across all available GLP-1, changing to an alternative GLP-1 is not recommended (as this does not provide a longer term solution).
- Consider prescribing an alternative glucose lowering agent. [NHS Grampian Guidance](#) can be consulted when considering an alternative medication.
- Where switching to an alternative medication, due to potential differences in efficacy, glycaemic control should be reviewed after any change.

If after the review of guidance further advice is required please contact either the:

- senior diabetes medical team via standard SCI gateway referral process or
- diabetes specialist nurses on 01224 559977 (Monday – Friday, 9am 1pm).

### **Actions for community pharmacy**

- Efforts should be made to locate stock for patient, this may include contacting manufacturers to confirm availability/quota information as well as other pharmacies.
- Where there is a likelihood that supplies will not be procured to ensure a continued supply of medication to the patient, timely contact should be made with the patients prescriber to advise of supply issues and request the prescribing of a suitable alternative.

### **Further information**

- [Grampian Guidance – Pharmacological Management of Type 2 Diabetes](#)
- [Specialist Pharmacist Service – GLP-1 shortage](#)
- [Joint PCDS & ABCD guidance: GLP-1 receptor agonist national shortage](#)