Chief Medical Officer Directorate

Pharmacy and Medicines Division



T: 0131-244-2528 E: irene.fazakerley@gov.scot

IMMEDIATE MESSAGE TO:

1. Directors of Pharmacy

2. Medical Directors NHS Boards

18 July 2023

Dear Healthcare Professional,

NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY ALERT /2023/008/DHSC – SHORTAGE OF GLP-1 RECEPTOR AGONISTS

Please see attached National Patient Safety alert regarding the very limited, intermittent supplies of all glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs). Supply issues have been caused by an increase in demand for these products for licensed and off-label indications for onward transmission as below :

Please could all Directors of Pharmacy please forward this alert to:-

- Chief Pharmacists
- Hospital Pharmacists
- Community Pharmacists

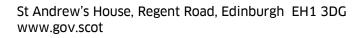
Please could Medical Directors arrange to forward this alert on to:-

- Diabetes clinical specialists
- General Practitioners
- General Practitoner Locums
- Dispensing Doctors
- Accident & Emergency Departments
- Directors of Public Health
- Relevant Clinics
- Chief Executives of NHS Board

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

IRENE FAZAKERLEY Medicines Policy Team







Department of Health & Social Care



Shortage of GLP-1 receptor agonists

Date of issue: 18-Jul-23	Reference no:	NatPSA/2023/008/DHSC
This alert is for action by: All organisations	s involved in prescribing and disp	pensing GLP1-RA medicines
This is a safety critical and complex National F ead (or equivalent role in organisations withou practices, pharmacy services in all sectors , we and Justice Sector.	ut executive boards) and supported	by clinical leaders in diabetes , GP
Explanation of identified safety issue:	Actions required	
There are very limited, intermittent supplies of all glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1		pleted as soon as possible, 18/10/2023
RAS) NOTE A. Supplies are not expected to stabilise to mean market demand until at least mid-2024. The supply issues have been caused by a formation of the seproducts for the seproducts for the second and off-label indications. The off-label use of these agents for the management of obesity is strongly discourned by the second off of the second of	neet fullsupply issues have realindications.an1. Only prescribe G indications.an2. Do not initiate neaduration of the san3. Proactively ident GLP-1 RAs and based on the criticandraged. in in navei. discuss stopp have not achi NICE CG28 cdcontrol, atedii. do not switch including betw iii. do not double where a highe not available.control, atediv. do not prescribing to whilst acknowcontrol, atediv. do not prescribing to whilst acknowcontrol, atediv. do not prescribing to whilst acknowcontrol, atediv. do not prescribing to whilst acknowcontrol, 	CLP-1 RAs for their licensed ew patients on GLP-1 RAs for the hortage. tify patients established on affected consider prioritising for review teria set out in the clinical guidance oing treatment with patients who ieved treatment targets as per or <u>NICE CG189</u> between brands of GLP-1 RAs, ween injectable and oral forms. e up a lower dose preparation er dose preparation of GLP-1 RA is ibe excessive quantities; limit o minimise risk to the supply chain vledging the needs of the patient. es of shared decision making where gent needs to be considered, as per ³ and in conjunction with the

For further detail, resources and supporting materials see: Enter specific webpage provided by alert issuer

For any enquiries about this alert contact: <u>DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk</u>

Additional information:

Notes

A. GLP-1 RAs affected⁶

Semaglutide injection and tablets:

- Ozempic[®] 0.25 mg, 0.5mg and 1mg solution for injection in pre-filled pen
- Rybelsus[®] 3mg, 7mg and 14mg tablets

Dulaglutide:

• Trulicity® 0.75 mg, 1.5mg, 3mg and 4.5mg solution for injection in pre-filled pens

Liraglutide:

- Victoza[®] 6mg/ml solution for injection in prefilled pen
- Saxenda® 6mg/ml solution for injection in prefilled pen

Exenatide:

- Byetta® 5micrograms/0.02ml and 10micrograms/0.04ml solution for injection 1.2ml pre-filled pens
- Bydureon[®] 2mg/0.85ml prolonged-release suspension for injection 1.2ml pre-filled pens

Clinical Guidance

This guidance aims to support clinicians in choosing suitable alternative glucose lowering therapies to GLP-1 RAs during this period of national shortage.

Clinical Guidance from the Primary Care Diabetes Society (PCDS) and Association of British Clinical Diabetologists (ABCD) should be used in conjunction with NICE NG28 Type 2 Diabetes in Adults: choosing medicines.

For alternative weight loss management guidance see NCG189 <u>Obesity: identification, assessment and management (nice.org.uk)</u>

References

- 1. NICE Type 2 diabetes in adults: choosing medicines <u>https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng28/resources/visual-summary-full-version-choosing-medicines-</u> <u>for-firstline-and-further-treatment-pdf-10956472093</u>
- 2. Joint PCDS and ABCD guidance: GLP-1 receptor agonist national shortage https://www.pcdsociety.org/pcds-abcd-guidance-glp1-shortage
- 3. NICE Shared decision making (NG197) https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng197
- 4. NICE Obesity: identification, assessment and management (nice.org.uk) CG189
- 5. Specialist Pharmacy Service Prescribing available insulins https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/prescribing-available-insulins/
- Specialist Pharmacy Service Prescribing available GLP-1 receptor agonists <u>https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/prescribing-available-glp-1-receptor-agonists/</u>
- 7. emc Summary of Product Characteristics https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc
- BNF Type 2 diabetes <u>https://bnf.nice.org.uk/treatment-summaries/type-2-diabetes/</u>

Stakeholder engagement

The following stakeholders have been engaged in the management and consulted in the drafting of this alert: Specialist Pharmacy Service Medicines Advice, Medicine Shortage Response Group, NHS England, national clinical directors for Diabetes, national clinical experts in Diabetes, NHS England Patient Safety, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the Devolved Governments.

Advice for Central Alerting System (CAS) officers and risk managers

This is a safety critical and complex National Patient Safety Alert. In response to <u>CHT/2019/001</u> your organisation should have developed new processes to ensure appropriate oversight and co-ordination of all National Patient Safety Alerts. CAS officers should send this Alert to the executive lead nominated in their new process to coordinate implementation of safety critical and complex National Patient Safety Alerts, copying in the leads identified on page 1.

For any enquiries about this alert contact: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk