

# Medicines Matters

Issue 5 – May 2025



## GLP-1 Audit on NICE criteria

Throughout 2024 there has been an increase of over 50% in the number of patients across Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB prescribed a glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA's) in primary care. This increase in patient numbers is reflected in the cost of prescribing which was approximately £575k in January 2024 and which had risen to over £1 million by the end of the year.

Prescribing in primary care should currently be restricted to use in diabetes, although the use of GLP-1RAs in primary care for weight management in restricted circumstances is due to commence in late June.

**Current RAG statuses and guidance for the use of all GLP-1RA's both for the treatment of diabetes and weight management can be accessed through the netFormulary site at the following link**  
[Lancashire and South Cumbria Formulary](#)

There is also a large private provision of GLP-1RAs as a weight loss drug, with details being sent to GPs to be documented onto patient EMIS records. To differentiate between GLP-1RAs prescribed under the NHS and those obtained privately, it is recommended that the privately issued prescriptions are recorded on EMIS in the hospital drugs section.

By standardising the recording processes on EMIS this means that all sectors involved in the care of the patient can see a full picture of all the medications a patient is taking and ensure GLP-1RA's obtained privately are included in any interaction alerts on EMIS. By including in the Hospital Only section on EMIS this should also help prevent the inadvertent prescribing on the NHS of medication previously obtained from private providers. The Medicines Optimisation team have developed a standard operating procedure to follow for the adding of medicines to the Hospital Only section of EMIS Web and this SOP can be accessed below.

During 2025-26 the Medicines Optimisation teams across the ICB will be supporting practices with a review of GLP-1RA prescribing. The starting point for this piece of work will be to ensure the appropriate recording of existing GLP-1RA prescribing on EMIS and the maintenance of this going forwards. This will be followed by an audit of GLP-1 RAs prescribing within practices. The audit will be undertaken by the Medicines Optimisation teams to ensure these drugs are being prescribed appropriately in line with NICE/Lancashire and South Cumbria Medicines Management Group guidance and will focus on / and highlight those patients where GLP-1RA's are

- Prescribed outside of their licensed indication and dose.
- Where cautions/contraindications to prescribing have been identified
- Lack of effectiveness of the medication is being demonstrated, and ongoing treatment should be reviewed.
- Treatment could be prescribed in a more cost-effective way.



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