

# Medicines Matters

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## GLP-1 RA and GIP/GLP-1 RA Quick Reference Guide

There is now a helpful quick reference guide for GLP-1 and GIP/GLP-1 RA's on the Medicines Optimisation section of the primary care intranet and this can be found at the following link [GLP-1-RA-and-GIP-GLP-1-RA-Quick-Reference-Guide.-V2.pdf](#). The guide contains a summary table of current GLP-1 RA and GIP GLP-1 RA therapies detailing important information including:

- **Brand names and RAG ratings**

It is important, to prescribe GLP-1 and GIP/GLP-1 RA's by brand name. This ensures the patient receives the correct licensed product – for example, if semaglutide was prescribed generically, the pharmacy could dispense either Ozempic (licensed for diabetes) or Wegovy (licensed for weight loss). Branded prescribing ensures the correct product is dispensed.

RAG ratings indicate whether this prescribing should be taking place in primary care.

**Red medicines:** Are those where primary care prescribing is not recommended.

**Green:** Appropriate for initiation and ongoing prescribing in both primary and secondary care.

**Green (Restricted):** Appropriate for initiation and ongoing prescribing in both primary and secondary care provided additional criteria specific to the medicine or device are met.

For up to date information on the RAG rating of all products see the Central Lancashire net-formulary site at the following link [Lancashire and South Cumbria Formulary](#)

- **Available strengths and doses**

Some pens only come in one strength, whilst others have multiple. Depending on the dose prescribed, more than one pen per month may be required. The guide clearly shows the number of pens a patient should be prescribed for 28 days treatment.

The guide contains brief information on dosing and stepping up of treatment. Further full information on prescribing can be found on NICE CKS at the following link: [GLP-1 receptor agonists | Prescribing information | Diabetes - type 2 | CKS | NICE](#)

- **Information on whether the pens have included needles**

Pens that come with needles included are: Trulicity (dulaglutide), Bydureon (exenatide), Ozempic (semaglutide) and Wegovy (semaglutide).

Pens that need a separate prescription for needles include: Mounjaro (tirzepatide) and Saxenda (liraglutide).

- **Disposal information**

Some of the pens can be recycled via the PenCycle scheme after they have been used. Ozempic, Saxenda and Wegovy pens can be recycled via this scheme. This can reduce plastic waste and contributes to better sustainability across Lancashire and South Cumbria. For more information and to find a pharmacy participating in the PenCycle scheme see the pencycle website at the following link: [PenCycle](#).