**Prescribing Tip No. 202 Date: 10th May 2018**

**Reminder - Formulary for Blood Glucose Monitoring Testing Strips Now Available on Sharepoint.**

**Prescribing Tip 178 was issued in October 2017 advising that a blood glucose monitoring testing strip formulary had been developed and was available on the Medicines Optimisation page of Sharepoint. The formulary has been jointly developed between members of the Medicines Optimisation team and the Diabetes Specialist nurses.**

**The aim of the formulary is to ensure that as existing patients are reviewed consideration is given to switching to a formulary recommended meter and testing strip. The formulary should also be used for selecting appropriate meters and testing strips for any newly diagnosed patients.**

The formulary was developed partly in response to an update to the ISO standards which all blood glucose testing meters in use are now expected to conform to. Further information relating to the updated standards can be found [here](http://www.bivda.co.uk/portals/0/documents/briefing%20for%20hcps.pdf).

The guidance on the choice of blood glucose monitoring meters and test strips includes a range of blood glucose testing meters which:

* Meet current ISO standards;
* Possess a range of clinical features and highlights those patient groups for whom they are considered most suitable;
* Are compatible with cost effective testing strips.



**Advice for practices:**

* **Check all current stocks of meters held at the practice to ensure that all meters meet the latest ISO standards and are preferably, in the formulary.**
* **Replacement meters can be obtained for the practice free of charge from the manufacturers. The attached formulary contains details of the manufacturer for each meter, contact details for which, can be found in the index at the back of the BNF or under the product listing within MIMS.**
* **If changing a meter for a type 1 diabetic patient consider that they may require a meter which tests for ketones.**
* **NB. Any patients with sight, dexterity or cognitive problems may have received an individual assessment by the diabetes specialist team for a suitable device. If practices are considering changing meters in such patients the practice are responsible for ensuring that the patient has received adequate training on the device and that it is suitable for the patient to use.**

**Requests for meters and testing strips outside of this guidance should be at the request of the Specialist Diabetes team only and where an individual patient need has been identified. Meters should be provided free of charge from GP surgeries or diabetes clinics. Patients should be dissuaded from buying their own meter. The prescribing of strips and lancets for patients’ own-purchased meters is not supported by the CCG.**

**The guidance is available under the formulary tab on the Medicines Optimisation Team site on Sharepoint:** <http://ccg.centrallancashire.nhs.uk/mmopt/Diabetes%20Prescribing/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

The Freestyle Libre Sensor glucose monitoring system has been recently reviewed by the CCGs’ Medicines Management Group and provisionally RAG rated GREY – The evidence supporting the use of this device is currently being assessed by LMMG to establish the potential position in therapy. Until this assessment has been concluded **GPs and specialists are recommended not to prescribe this device.**

**To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302**