

Semaglutide (Wegovy®) NICE TA and Holding Statement to support Sheffield Primary Care

On 8 March 2023 the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published a Technology appraisal guidance on the weight-loss drug semaglutide (Wegovy®). <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta875> .This recommended that semaglutide should be prescribed, alongside a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity, as part of specialist weight management services, to people with at least one weight-related co-morbidity and a body mass index (BMI) of at least 35kg/m² or between 30kg/m² - 34.9kg/m² who meet the defined criteria. See NICE for full details as there are also lower BMI for certain ethnic groups and the criteria for lower weight may help in discussion with patients.

NICE state that there is no evidence of effectiveness if semaglutide is used as a single stand-alone treatment.

As there has been significant media coverage and attention from members of the public, this statement has been produced to support primary care and ratified by Sheffield place Area Prescribing Group in June 2023.

Patients should be assured that we are working with providers to develop a pathway in line with NICE to make both liraglutide (Saxenda®) and semaglutide (Wegovy®) available, but neither should be prescribed by GPs. We have classified semaglutide (Wegovy®) as **Red** on the Traffic Light Drug List for this indication and **Black** for prescribing out with the NICE TA. In addition, semaglutide (Wegovy®) is not available through Live Lighter.

Further news from June 2023 is that considerations are being made on how to expand weight management offers of semaglutide and similar drugs to people in England. This is likely to be rolled out as an initial pilot project involving GP prescribing but at this time, we do not know which areas will be pilot sites or any detail. We appreciate that demand for these medications is likely to be high and will work in the coming weeks to gain clarity of what is to be offered. Please note that, semaglutide (Wegovy®) is not currently available for prescribing in obesity.

The Ozempic® and Rybelsus® brands of semaglutide are only licensed for use in the management of type 2 diabetes. They should **not** be prescribed off label for weight loss due to pressures on the supply chain resulting in stock shortages. Stock should be prioritised for patients currently prescribed semaglutide for management of their diabetes.

If you have eligible patients who are enquiring at your practice and you would like to let us know approximate numbers, or you have any queries, please email the APG mailbox (without any patient names): syicb-sheffield.areaprescribinggroupsheffield@nhs.net

We are keeping a log of all the queries we get so it helps to progress conversations. Once a pathway is agreed, we can update those that enquired.

Sharron Kebell, Specialised Commissioning Pharmacist
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