

To: GP Practices
Community Pharmacists

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18th April 2019

Dear Colleague

DIABETES CONSUMABLES (GLUCOMETERS, KETOMETERS AND INSULIN NEEDLES) FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES

Following the successful implementation of the glucometer guideline for adults with Type 2 diabetes issued in November 2017, there has been a significant increase in the use of cost-effective blood glucose strips in N.Ireland. Many adults with diabetes have also been switched to cost effective needle brands, which has also generated significant savings for the Health Service. These savings have only been possible, due to the collaborative working of health care professionals in both Primary and Secondary care.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the following new guidance which has been developed in partnership with Diabetes Specialist Nurses, Pharmacists and Diabetologists, to ensure the cost effective prescribing of blood glucose strips, blood ketone strips, insulin needles and lancets **for children and young people with Type 1 diabetes.**

- Guideline on the Choice of Glucometers and Ketometers for children and young people with Type 1 diabetes.
- Guideline on the choice of insulin needles for children and young people with Type 1 diabetes.

Both guidelines are available on the NI Formulary website:
<http://niformulary.hscni.net/Pages/default.aspx>

The aim of these guidelines is to ensure that, where possible, cost effective diabetes consumables are prescribed to children and young people with Type 1 diabetes.

Trusts have been asked to initiate new patients on cost-effective consumables and also to switch existing patients at routine clinic appointments, where appropriate.

GP practices are NOT expected to switch any consumable for children and young people with Type 1 diabetes.

ACTION FOR GP PRACTICES

- Prescribe the specific brand of blood glucose test strips, blood ketone strips, insulin needles and lancets to children and young people, as specified by secondary care communication.
- If necessary, provide advice and reassurance to children and young people and their parents/carers, in particular where their diabetes consumable has been changed.

ACTION FOR COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

- Provide advice and reassurance to children and young people and their parents/carers at the point of dispensing, in particular where their diabetes consumable has been changed.

A summary table of all HSC diabetes consumables guidelines is available in Appendix A.


If you have any queries in relation to this guidance please contact your Pharmacy Adviser.

Thank you for your support with this.

Yours sincerely



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CC. Regional Diabetes Network

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APPENDIX A: Summary of HSC Diabetes Consumables resources
April 2019

Glucometer/Ketometer guidelines

Name of Guideline/SOP/ Pathway	Link to Guideline/SOP/Pathway	Patient Target groups/further information	Suitable for switching in primary care?	Suitable for switching in secondary care?
Self Monitoring of Blood Glucose (SMBG) Sept 2017	http://niformulary.hscni.net/Formulary/Adult/6.0/6.1/6.1.6/Pages/default.aspx	ADULTS only. Patients with Type 1 AND Type 2 diabetes.	N/A	N/A
Guideline on the Choice of Blood Glucose Meters and Test Strips for Patients with TYPE 2 DIABETES Updated April 2019.	http://niformulary.hscni.net/Formulary/Adult/6.0/6.1/6.1.6/Pages/default.aspx	ADULTS only. Patients with Type 2 Diabetes ONLY. To be used in conjunction with the above guidance document.	Yes. SOP available on Primary Care Intranet (Under clinical resources/ diabetes).	Yes
Guideline on the Choice of Glucometers and Ketometers for children and young people with TYPE 1 DIABETES. April 2019.	http://niformulary.hscni.net/Formulary/Adult/6.0/6.1/6.1.6/Pages/default.aspx	CHILDREN with Type 1 Diabetes ONLY.	No	Yes
Guideline on the Choice of Glucometers and Ketometers for ADULTS with TYPE 1 DIABETES April 2019.	http://niformulary.hscni.net/Formulary/Adult/6.0/6.1/6.1.6/Pages/default.aspx	ADULTS with Type 1 Diabetes ONLY.	No	Yes

Insulin/GLP1 Needles

Name of Guideline/SOP/Pathway	Link to Guideline/SOP/Pathway	Patient Target groups/further information.	Suitable for switching in primary care?	Suitable for switching in secondary care?
SOP for Switching Needles for Self Administration of <u>insulin (& GLP1 agonists)</u> via pen devices to the most Cost Effective brands. February 2019.	Available on Primary Care Intranet (under clinical resources/ diabetes)	ADULTS only. Patients with Type 1 AND Type 2 diabetes.	Yes	Yes
Guideline on the choice of insulin needles for children and young people with TYPE 1 DIABETES. April 2019.	http://niformulary.hscni.net/Formulary/Adult/6.0/6.1/6.1.6/Pages/default.aspx	CHILDREN only with Type 1 diabetes.	No	Yes

FreeStyle Libre[®]

Name of Guideline/SOP/Pathway	Link to Guideline/SOP/Pathway	Patient Target groups/further information.
Freestyle Libre [®] Letter to GPs and CPs	http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/download/PUBLICATIONS/pharmacy_and_medicines_management/correspondence/20171027_Freestyle-Libre-Letter-to-GPs-and-CPs-FINAL-V.pdf	Information for GPs and CPs on Freestyle Libre [®]
Freestyle Libre [®] Letter to Trusts	http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/download/PUBLICATIONS/pharmacy_and_medicines_management/correspondence/HSCB_Letter_Freestyle-Libre-Flash-Glucose-Monitoring-Pathway.pdf	Letter to Trusts re. publication of the Freestyle Libre [®] pathway
Freestyle Libre [®] Pathway for secondary care	http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/download/PUBLICATIONS/pharmacy_and_medicines_management/correspondence/Pathway-for-the-Managed-Access-of-FreeStyle-Libre.docx	Pathway for use by TRUSTS ONLY . Patients with Type 1 Diabetes only .