

To:
GPs and Community Pharmacists

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Dear Colleague

Changeover to FreeStyle Libre 2[®] Sensors

FreeStyle Libre 1[®], a flash glucose monitoring (FGM) system which can be used to aid the management of diabetes, has been available since late 2017. [A pathway was established for the Managed Access of FreeStyle Libre[®]](#) in N.Ireland in December 2017. Using this pathway, patients with Type 1 diabetes are assessed in secondary care and if they are eligible for the Freestyle Libre[®] system, correspondence is issued to their GP to request that Freestyle Libre[®] sensors are prescribed in primary care.

As you may be aware, a new version of the sensor, FreeStyle Libre 2[®], has recently been released by the manufacturers and has been available on the Northern Ireland Drug Tariff from 1st November 2020. As the new Freestyle Libre 2[®] system provides improved accuracy of glucose readings and offers additional functionality, it is proposed that that all patients currently prescribed the Freestyle Libre 1[®] sensors will be changed to the new Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensor.

A comparison table outlining some of the main differences between Freestyle Libre 1[®] and Freestyle Libre 2[®] systems is included in Appendix A.

Existing patients, including children, currently prescribed FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors will require their prescription to be changed.

Patients have been encouraged not to contact their GP practices to ask to be switched to FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors. Patients will be notified when their practice has amended their prescription.

Actions for GP Practices:

- GP practices should consider nominating a suitable staff member to manage the switch of patients currently prescribed FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors to the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors.
- GP practices should inform their local community pharmacists of their intention to complete the switch and work collaboratively to ensure that stock levels of the FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors can be exhausted, while also providing adequate time for community pharmacists to order stock of the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors.
- On an agreed date, the appointed GP practice staff member should search for patients on their clinical system, who are currently prescribed FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors. Prescriptions for the FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensor should be stopped and a new prescription for FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensor should be added to the patient's record.
 - Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensors are already on the drug dictionary of both the Vision and Merlok GP clinical systems. They have been added to Emis Web January 2021 update.
 - Practices using the EMIS web GP Clinical system should first check that until Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensors are listed on their drug dictionary before proceeding.
- GP practices are reminded of previous HSCB guidance that a **maximum of 2 sensors per month should be prescribed.**
- A patient template letter is available in Appendix B which can be amended as required. It is recommended that a letter and a patient information leaflet (Appendix C) should be printed and attached to all new prescriptions for Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensors.

Actions for community pharmacies:

- FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors can be ordered in the same way as FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors, using the portal:
<https://www.freestylelibrepharmacyportal.co.uk/>
- FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors cannot be used to fill a prescription for FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors and vice versa.

Patient information

- Patients do not require additional training on the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] system, but they can access support via the manufacturer's website or by contacting them by phone, should it be necessary (see further details below).
- If patients are unsure of how to set the correct alarm range on the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] system, they can complete the alarms module on Freestyle Academy (<https://progress.freestylediabetes.co.uk/>) and/or they should contact a member of their diabetes specialist team to discuss.
This is particularly important for children.
- The patient letter and information leaflet (Appendix B and C) should be attached to the new prescription for Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensor issued by the GP practice. **Community pharmacists should ensure that BOTH the letter and information leaflet are given to the patient with their new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensor.**
- Where possible when patients collect their prescription they should be advised about changes required to their reader or app, using the information provided in the patient information leaflet (Appendix C)
- To avoid wastage, patients will be encouraged to use up all existing stocks of FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors, prior to beginning to use the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors.

Further patient information is also available from the manufacturer at www.FreeStyleDiabetes.co.uk or by calling 0800 170 1177 (Mon-Fri 08:00 – 20:00, Sat 09:00 – 17:00 excl. bank holidays).

If you have any queries in relation to this change please do not hesitate to contact your HSCB Pharmacy Adviser.

Yours sincerely



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