

**Position statement: Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) analogues: Semaglutide (Wegovy®) and Liraglutide (Saxenda®)**

**Proposed Statement for Referrers:**

There have been two positive NICE TAs which recommend the use of a GLP-1 analogue for managing overweight and obesity.

1. NICE TA664 relating to Liraglutide (Saxenda®) was published in December 2020: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA664>
2. NICE TA875 relating to Semaglutide (Wegovy®) was published on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and widely publicised: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA875>

The current agreement set out by NICE, which is endorsed locally, is that either GLP-1 analogue can **only be prescribed by a specialist weight management (Tier 3) service and within set criteria**. It is, therefore, currently not available to be prescribed in a GP Practice (Hospital-Only status).

This is partly because of national commercial access arrangements on the NHS which will not be accessible to primary care. Also, it is essential that patients being prescribed specialist medical therapies for obesity are managed within a specialist, multidisciplinary obesity service where they can access expertise to support progress, navigate challenges relating to the disease process, manage complex comorbidities and work on sustainable changes. This is especially important as NHS prescribing will be for a maximum of 2 years at present. **Therefore, both drugs will be for initiation and continuation within a specialist service following a NICE-based assessment.**

There is currently a working group planning a pilot Tier 3 weight management service for North East London and further communication will follow in due course. Please prepare your patient for Tier 3 by referring them to a local Tier 2 option –this is required as part of a prerequisite to Tier 3 entry.

**When the Tier 3 pilot service is available, full details around medication availability within this service will be confirmed. Therefore, please do not refer your patients for treatment with Wegovy® or Saxenda® until this information is released.** This is to avoid confusion and frustration to patients. Communication will follow when this medication is available.

Once referred into Tier 3, there is no guarantee that your patient will be suitable for medical therapy –this will be a shared decision with multidisciplinary input and communicated clearly with the patient. For those eligible, but not suitable for treatment with a GLP-1 analogue, alternative options will be presented.

## **Proposed Statement for Patients, Semaglutide (Wegovy®):**

Thank you for your interest in the weight loss injection Semaglutide (Wegovy). This is currently a hospital medicine and your GP Practice will not be able to prescribe this to you.

Currently, Wegovy is not yet available in the UK after the launch of the medicine was delayed by the manufacturer. We do not know when it will become available in this country yet. Once it becomes available in the UK, your GP Practice will need to refer you into a specialist (Tier 3) weight management clinic for assessment which is currently being set up. There are set criteria for acceptance into a Tier 3 weight management clinic and one of these is that you must have completed a Tier 2 weight management clinic first.

Please discuss with your GP Practice what local options are available to you. The decision to start medical treatment, as with other medicines, will be a shared one. This medicine is not suitable for every person who needs or wants support with weight management. For those who are unsuitable for medical treatment we will always work with you to find alternative options. All medical treatments for weight loss need to be provided alongside lifestyle options for maximum benefit.

## **Proposed Statement for Patients, Liraglutide (Saxenda®):**

Thank you for your interest in the weight loss injection Liraglutide (Saxenda). This is currently a hospital medicine and your GP Practice will not be able to prescribe this to you.

To access this medicine, your GP Practice will need to refer you into a specialist Tier 3 weight management clinic for assessment which is currently being set up. There are set criteria for acceptance into Tier 3 weight management clinic and one of these is that you must have completed a Tier 2 weight management clinic first.

Please discuss with your GP Practice what local options are available to you. The decision to start medical treatment, as with other medicines, will be a shared one. This medicine is not suitable for every person who needs or wants support with weight management. For those who are unsuitable for medical treatment we will always work with you to find alternative options. All medical treatments for weight loss need to be provided alongside lifestyle options for maximum benefit.