**Information for people with questions about the availability of the new medicine Wegovy® (semaglutide).**

In March 2023, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published their Technology Appraisal ([TA875](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta875)) for Wegovy® (semaglutide) and its associated criteria for use as an option for weight management as part of a tier 3 weight management programme.

A 'technology appraisal' is a recommendation from NICE on the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS. The ICB have 90 days to implement the appraisal from the time that Wegovy® becomes available in England.

NHS Cornwall IOS ICB is aware of this new appraisal and the inclusion of semaglutide as an option in the management of obesity in the NICE Clinical Knowledge Summary on Obesity.

People living with overweight, and obesity should be assured that work with local specialist colleagues, as well as other local stakeholders, to implement this technology is being undertaken so that we are in a position to offer treatment for patients fitting the specified criteria, once Wegovy (semaglutide) is launched in the UK..

People living with overweight, and obesity are kindly asked to remain patient, until such time that Wegovy becomes available in the UK.

**Wegovy (Semaglutide) is not yet commercially available in the UK, and we do not expect this to be resolved until 2024.**

**More information**

The new technology appraisal relates to the use of Wegovy® (semaglutide) which will be managed via the local specialist weight management services.

Please note: the Wegovy® brand of semaglutide, which is licensed for use in the management of obesity, is **not yet commercially available.**

Ozempic®, which is only licensed for use in diabetes remains in short supply. It should also be noted that the licensed doses and dose escalation schedule are different for these two products and therefore they should not be considered as equivalents.

**Local authority funded tier 2 weight management services**

[Healthy Cornwall](https://www.healthycornwall.org.uk/) provide preventative health improvement programmes to include options for weight management, these do **NOT** include medication to aid weight loss. Lifestyle weight management options are available free to people who meet the following eligibility criteria:

* be aged 18 or over
* BMI of more than 28
* not pregnant

For more information, [email Healthy Cornwall](mailto:healthy.cornwall@cornwall.gov.uk) or call [01209 615600](tel:01209615600).

**Secondary care tier 3 weight management services**

Patient referral to **Tier** **3** **specialist obesity services** via the current RMS [link](https://rms.cornwall.nhs.uk/primary_care_clinical_referral_criteria/obesity) should follow the criteria recommended by [NICE Scenario: Management of Obesity CKS](https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/obesity/management/management/) for consideration of initiation of drug treatment (Orlistat or Saxenda (Liraglutide) being the only medicine options currently available) or assessment for bariatric surgery.

RMS can also be used for referral to [The NHS Digital Weight Management Programme](https://www.england.nhs.uk/digital-weight-management/) ([healthycornwall.org.uk](http://www.healthycornwall.org.uk/) service listed above under tier 2)

**Saxenda** (Liraglutide) is recommended as an option for managing overweight and obesity alongside a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity in adults, **ONLY if patients fit the NICE criteria**:

1. They have a body mass index (BMI) of at least 35 kg/m2 (or at least 32.5 kg/m2 for members of minority ethnic groups known to be at equivalent risk of the consequences of obesity at a lower BMI than the white population) **AND**
2. They have non-diabetic hyperglycaemia (defined as a haemoglobin A1c level of 42 mmol/mol to 47 mmol/mol [6.0% to 6.4%] or a fasting plasma glucose level of 5.5 mmol/litre to 6.9 mmol/litre) **AND**
3. They have a high risk of cardiovascular disease based on risk factors such as hypertension and dyslipidaemia.

**INITIATION AND DURATION OF TREATMENT**

Treatment with Saxenda should be discontinued if at least 5% body weight loss is not achieved at 6 months. The treatment does not continue beyond 2 years. **Prescribing will remain with secondary care weight management and accessed via a commercial arrangement**.