

To: Trusts Chief Executives
(for onward cascade as per the
attached distribution list)

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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 seek your support with the implementation 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 and insulin needles **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/Formulary/Adult/6.0/6.1/6.1.6/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.

ACTION FOR TRUSTS:

- New patients should be initiated on cost effective diabetes consumables (blood glucose and blood ketone testing strips, insulin needles and lancets).
- Existing patients should be assessed at routine clinic appointments to check that they are using cost effective diabetes consumables. Where applicable, patients should be switched to cost effective consumables.
- Correspondence from Trusts to GPs should clearly state the specific brand of blood glucose strips, blood ketone strips, insulin needles (including length and gauge size) and lancets to be prescribed.

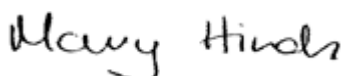
A summary table of all HSC diabetes consumables guidelines is available in Appendix A.

HSCB will also be writing to GP practices and community pharmacists to seek their support in the implementation of this guidance. GP practices will only change the prescription for consumables for these patients on the direction of Trusts diabetes teams. We would ask that you support this initiative by implementing both guidelines.

Yours sincerely



Joe Brogan
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines
Management



Mrs Mary Hinds
Executive Director of Nursing
Midwifery & Allied Health
Professionals

CC. Regional Diabetes Network

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

	To – for Action	Copy		To – for Action	Copy
HSC Trusts			PHA		
CEXs	✓		CEX		✓
Medical Director		✓	Medical Director/Director of Public Health		✓
Directors of Nursing		✓	Director of Nursing/AHPs		✓
Directors of Social Services			PHA Duty Room		
Governance Leads		✓	AD Health Protection		
Directors of Acute Services		✓	AD Service Development/Screening		
Directors of Community/Elderly Services		✓	AD Health Improvement		
Heads of Pharmacy		✓	AD Nursing		✓
Allied Health Professional Leads		✓	AD Allied Health Professionals		✓
Directors of Human Resources			Clinical Director Safety Forum		
Dietetic Head of Service		✓			
NIAS			HSCB		
CEX		✓	CEX		
Medical Director		✓	Director of Integrated Care		✓
RQIA			Director of Social Services		
CEX			Director of Commissioning		✓
Medical Director			Alerts Office		
Director of Nursing			Dir PMSI & Corporate Services		✓
Director for Social Care			Primary Care (through Integrated Care)		
NIMDTA			GPs	✓	
CEX / PG Dean		✓	Community Pharmacists		✓
QUB			Dentists		
Dean of Medical School		✓	BSO		
Head of Nursing School		✓	Director of Human Resources		
Head of Social Work School			Open University		
Head of Pharmacy School		✓	Head of Nursing Branch		
Head of Dentistry School			DoH		
UU			CMO office		✓
Head of Nursing School		✓	CNO office		✓
Head of Social Work School			CPO office		✓
Head of Pharmacy School		✓	CSSO office		
Head of School of Health Sciences (AHP Lead)			CDO office		
Clinical Education Centre		✓	Safety, Quality & Standards Office		
NIPEC		✓	NI Social Care Council		
GAIN Office		✓	Safeguarding Board NI		
NICPLD		✓	NICE Implementation Facilitator		
NI Medicines Governance Team Leader for Secondary Care		✓	Coroners Service for Northern Ireland		
GP federation – Professional Head of Pharmacy		✓			

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 .