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Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnistrie O Poustie

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By email

All GP practices
All Community Pharmacies
Mrs Glynis McMurtry Professional Head of Pharmacy
cascade to GPPs
Primary Care NMPs

Strategic Planning and Performance Group

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Date: 18 April 2023

Dear Colleague

Update GLP1 agonists for – Liraglutide & Semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity

We refer to previous correspondence issued on 13 September 2022 which outlined the extant commissioning position for liraglutide (Saxenda®) and semaglutide (Wegovy®).

Following the recent publication of NICE Technology Appraisal TA875 which recommends the use of semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity, we are now writing to remind you of the extant commissioning position for both treatments.

Action required by Health and Social Care

As previously requested Primary Care Providers should take action to ensure that liraglutide and semaglutide are not prescribed nor recommended as an option for managing overweight and obesity until such time as there is a tier 3 service as part of a wider regional obesity management service has been able to progress sufficiently to support the provision of these treatment regimes.

Liraglutide (Saxenda®) and semaglutide (Wegovy®) although licensed for weight management, are not yet accepted for use in Northern Ireland via the Managed Entry process for new medicines. As such they should not be prescribed.

If GPs or other primary care prescribers are asked to prescribe either of the GLP1 agonists above outwith this guidance they should not prescribe but instead refer the requesting clinician to this correspondence.

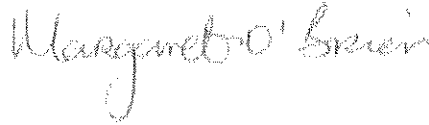
It is important that a consistent approach is taken with respect of this guidance from HSC and private providers of healthcare.

Thank you for your attention with this matter. If you have any queries please contact Veronica Gillen (veronica.gillen@hscni.net) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



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