



Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 Receptor Agonist (GLP-1 RA) supply shortage

Clinical Advice from HSE National Clinical Program for Diabetes Mellitus
HSE Ireland 1/11/2023

Background

Due to significant global demand, pharmaceutical shortages of the long-acting glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RA) emerged in late 2022 and have persisted, with resolution of normal supply chains not expected until late 2024. Disruptions in the supply chain create challenges for patients and clinicians, forcing physicians to seek alternative approaches to overcome what is hoped to be a temporary hurdle until pharmaceutical production meets demand. Given the lack of generic options within the GLP-1 RA medication class, this HSE National Clinical Program for Diabetes advice aims to outline the best evidence based medicine international practice, to overcome barriers related to the shortage (please see References 1-4 below).

Scope

This guidance aims to support physicians in selecting alternative glucose lowering therapies due to GLP1 RA supply shortage.

Clinical Advice:

- Only prescribe GLP-1 RAs for their licensed indications
- Do not initiate new patients on GLP-1 RAs for the duration of the shortage.
- Proactively identify patients established on GLP-1 RAs and consider alternatives especially in those patients who have not achieved treatment targets
- Options as to what other pharmaceutical agents should be considered are available from the joint ADA/EASD guidelines for the management of Type 2 Diabetes.
- Use the principles of shared decision making where an alternative antihyperglycemic agent needs to be considered.
- GLP-1 RA therapy should only be continued if the adult with T2DM has had a beneficial metabolic response, defined as • a reduction of at least 11 mmol/mol [1.0%] in HbA1c, and • weight loss of at least 3% of initial body weight in 6 months
- Diabetes self-management education courses are available nationally to support people living with Type 2 diabetes. Healthcare professional or self-referral available at: <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/DiabetesSupportCourse>
- If G.P.'s require additional advice they can liaise with the Diabetes Clinical Nurse Specialist as part of the Diabetes Community Specialist teams in the Ambulatory Care Hubs in their local area.

References:

1. Heather P. Whitley, Jennifer M. Trujillo, Joshua J. Neumiller; Special Report: Potential Strategies for Addressing GLP-1 and Dual GLP-1/GIP Receptor Agonist Shortages. *Clin Diabetes* 1 July 2023; 41 (3): 467–473. <https://doi.org/10.2337/cd23-0023>
2. Joint PCDS and ABCD guidance: GLP-1 receptor agonist national shortage (2023) <https://www.pcdsociety.org/pcds-abcd-guidance-ghp1-shortage>
3. NHS – National Patient Safety Alert – Shortage of GLP-1 RA (2023) <https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewandAcknowledgment/ViewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103235>
4. Davies, M.J., Aroda, V.R., Collins, B.S. et al. Management of hyperglycaemia in type 2 diabetes, 2022. A consensus report by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD). *Diabetologia* 65, 1925–1966 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00125-022-05787-2>