

Stock Shortages of Injectable and Oral GLP-1 Analogues

Information for patients

You have been sent this leaflet because you are taking a GLP-1 analogue for type 2 diabetes. There is a UK-wide shortage of GLP-1 analogues.

GLP-1 analogues include:

- Dulaglutide (Trulicity®)
- Exenatide (Byetta® or Bydureon®)
- Semaglutide (Ozempic® or Rybelsus®)
- Liraglutide (Victoza®)
- Lixisenatide (Lyxumia®)

Reason for the shortage

The shortage is due to increased demand for GLP-1 analogues. It has nothing to do with your chemist, GP practice or Diabetes Specialist Service.

Your usual diabetes service will know about the shortage. They will have guidance to help you manage your diabetes while the GLP-1 analogues are in short supply.

When the shortage will be over

The supply of GLP-1 analogues is not expected to return to normal until the end of 2024 at the earliest.

How to manage your diabetes medication while there is a shortage

Continue taking all your diabetes medication as normal. This includes your GLP-1 analogue if you still have some, or can continue to get it. Please tell your practice if you cannot get your medication.

When you will have a diabetes review

You may need an earlier review for your diabetes. We will do our best to see you as soon as we can, but there are many people on GLP-1 analogues who need to be reviewed. Please seek advice sooner if your diabetes control is getting worse quickly. We may ask for a monitoring blood test sooner than planned.

If you feel unwell, follow the guidance at the end of this leaflet.

Changes to your diabetes treatment

You may need a change of treatment. This will be discussed during your review appointment.

Other ways to keep your diabetes control stable

NHS Wales advice is to refer people affected by GLP-1 analogue shortages to structured education programmes. You can access these programmes online or in face-to-face group sessions. Structured education programmes are highly effective and strongly recommended. They help you make positive changes to manage your diabetes well.

Date: July 2023

Revised: June 2024

Review due: July 2025

Authors: National Diabetes Network Wales. Julie Lewis. Cath Washbrook-Davies. Sarah Davies. Pam Brown.

What to do if you feel unwell

Please follow this guidance even if you are not affected by the shortage of GLP-1 analogues

See your GP at the earliest opportunity if you have symptoms of high blood glucose, such as:

- feeling very thirsty
- peeing a lot
- feeling weak or tired
- blurred vision
- losing weight

Call 111 for help if you think you have high blood glucose and:

- you're feeling sick
- you're being sick
- you have stomach pain
- you're breathing more quickly than usual
- your heart is beating faster than usual
- you feel drowsy or are struggling to stay awake
- your breath has a fruity smell (like pear drop sweets)
- you feel confused or have difficulty concentrating
- you have a high level of ketones in your blood or pee

These could be signs you are becoming very unwell.

[Mae'r daflen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.](#) This leaflet is also available in Welsh.