

**From NHS Tariff to local formulary.**

**FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring – a guidance document**

We welcome the announcement by the NHS Business Authority that Freestyle Libre will be available on prescription across the UK from 1st November 2017. The decision about who will be eligible for prescriptions has been devolved to local purchasers of health services, all of which are trying to find huge savings from their budgets. No new money has been made available to pay for this.

There is an understandable demand for universal access to this technology on prescription; it is a more convenient method for glucose monitoring than capillary blood glucose monitoring for people with insulin-treated diabetes. Wholesale switching from capillary blood glucose monitoring would place an unaffordable burden on budgets at current prices, although the anticipated introduction of similar technologies should drive prices down and eventually consign inconvenient and painful finger prick glucose testing to history. It is recommended that patients with type 1 diabetes on multiple injection therapy are advised to test before each meal and at bedtime as well as before driving. Although Freestyle Libre has been available to purchase directly from Abbott for some time, we want to avoid substituting access based on the ability to pay with a 'post code lottery' across the UK whereby different areas apply different eligibility criteria.

ABCD Type 1 Diabetes Clinical Collaborative-UK has produced the accompanying guidance for diabetes teams to use in their discussions with purchasing organisations to ensure the benefit of the technology is realised in as many people as possible, consistently across the NHS. The resulting recommendation represents the consensus of expert members of the Association of British Clinical Diabetologists (ABCD) and the Type 1 Diabetes Clinical Collaborative UK (T1DCC-UK), based on experience and the currently available clinical trial evidence. An invest-to-save approach has been adopted, consistent with the approach to all NHS spending plans, in the absence of a robust cost-effectiveness analysis.

The guiding principle is selecting people who are most likely to benefit for a trial of Freestyle Libre, which will usually last 6 months. During this time data will be collected to demonstrate that they are using the technology and acting on the results; the device downloads will allow the clinician to be able to establish whether these have been achieved. If there is no evidence of the device being used effectively NHS funding will be discontinued.

This paper has been created to provide guidance to clinicians and payers currently involved in discussions around negotiating access for FreeStyle Libre to the local formulary. It is designed to be used as an adjunct to Diabetes UK’s Consensus statement on Flash Glucose Monitoring, Abbott’s Formulary Pack and NICE MIB 110. This guidance will be updated as new data becomes available.

All providers are encouraged to register with and provide anonymised data to the forthcoming ABCD Nationwide Audit of Freestyle Libre which will provide a tool to audit the impact at individual service level and a national comparison.

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For the Type 1 Diabetes Clinical Collaborative –UK