



28th February 2024

Circular 002/24

RE: Reimbursement of Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists

Dear Pharmacist,

Controls are in place within PCRS on claiming processes to ensure that only HSE approved indications are reimbursed across a range of medicines. Controls are currently in place for the Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists to restrict reimbursement support to the HSE approved indication of Diabetes. This includes Victoza® (liraglutide), Ozempic® (semaglutide) and Trulicity® (Dulaglutide). Therefore, these products are not reimbursed under the Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS) and are confined to those persons with full GMS and LTI (Diabetes Mellitus) eligibility.

Diabetes is one of the Long Term Illness (LTI) conditions for which eligible LTI persons can access their medicines to treat their Diabetes free of charge. Patients diagnosed with Diabetes Mellitus are entitled to be registered under the LTI Scheme.

Liraglutide (Saxenda®) 6 mg/ml solution for injection in pre-filled pen is the only product currently approved under Community Drug Schemes (GMS/DPS) for weight management with a managed access system in place as outlined in Circular 002/23.

Prescriptions for Liraglutide (Victoza®) at doses in excess of 1.8 mg are outside the licensed indication and are not reimbursed under Community Drug Schemes.

Reimbursement support from the HSE is available for the licensed indication and approved dosages only (see table below). To manage the supply of these products, **reimbursement support for lower strength pen presentations to make up a dose is not approved** under Community Drug Schemes or any other HSE arrangement. However, the facility is available to pharmacies for 13 dispensing's in a rolling 12 months to accommodate the shortfall.

GLP-1 receptor agonists under Community Drug Schemes for approved licensed use				
Item	Strength	Formulation	Maximum monthly Pack	Scheme
Ozempic® (semaglutide)	0.25MG	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (1 pen, 4 needles)	GMS, LTI



Ozempic® (semaglutide)	0.5MG	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (1 pen, 4 needles)	GMS, LTI
Ozempic® (semaglutide)	1MG	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (1 pen, 4 needles)	GMS, LTI
Trulicity® (dulaglutide)	0.75MG	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (contains 4 pens)	GMS, LTI
Trulicity® (dulaglutide)	1.5MG	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (contains 4 pens)	GMS, LTI
Victoza® (liraglutide)	6MG/ML	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (containing 2 or 3 pens)	GMS, LTI
Saxenda® (liraglutide)	6MG/ML	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (contains 5 pens)	GMS, DPS

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan
Assistant National Director
Primary Care Reimbursement Service