

Medicines Optimisation *Key Messages* – *Bulletin 23*

Recommended & Cost Effective Lancets for Patient Self-use

KEY MESSAGE: Use recommended cost-effective lancets for blood testing

- Lancets are used to prick the finger to withdraw a small amount of blood to test blood glucose levels.
- Practices in Norfolk & Waveney** spend approx. **£214,100** on lancets per year.
- Lancets are available in different sizes - the higher the gauge, the smaller the diameter of the lancet.
- A higher gauge needle is generally less painful but may not provide sufficient blood for testing.
- Lancets are *single use only*; ensure patients are educated about **safe disposal in sharps bins**
- Multi-device lancets (i.e. Fastclick) have a preloaded lancet drum and may be appropriate for certain patients i.e. those with dexterity issues, children, or where sharps disposal is impractical or difficult.
- Finger-pricking devices are not prescribable but are supplied free with blood glucose meters.
- Several cost effective (**≤ £3.00/100**) lancets are available; these should be used for most patients.
- NHS England has recently recommended¹ which meters, testing strips and lancets/devices should be used. The ICB has clarified a recommended list for N&W as *below*.
- As an update to previous local prescribing guidance, one Safety Lancet, **Neon Verifine Safety** is now a cost-effective option for patients who cannot use standard products themselves, or who have a bloodborne infection which poses a risk to their carers.
- As before, other **higher cost safety lancets are not supported on FP10**. GPs who receive requests to prescribe these should contact the Medicines Optimisation Team for advice – nwicb.medsqueries@nhs.net

Lancets recommended for prescribing, based on *cost & optimal gauge size*

Optimal gauge of lancet is 30g (*where available*) for comfort, and to obtain sufficient blood for testing.

Lancets - Sterile, Single-Use	Although marketed for use with products below, listed Lancets will also fit other devices, so Cost-Effective switches can be made.	Preferred gauge size*	Pack	<£3.01/100	>£3.00/100	Supplier & Contact link
		Recommended Lancet Size		Pack Prices	Cost (£) per 100 (DT Jan 2024)	
4SURE lancets sterile single use	4SURE Smart Duo lancing device	0.32mm/30gauge	100	£2.90	£2.90	Nipro Diagnostics https://www.nipro-diagnostics.co.uk/patients/contact
AgaMatrix Comfort Twist lancets	Agamatrix Agile, WaveSense JAZZ lancing devices	0.32mm/30gauge	100	£2.69	£2.69	AgaMatrix https://agamatrix.co.uk/professional/customer-care/
AgaMatrix Ultra-Thin lancets		0.2mm/33gauge	200	£5.43	£2.72	
CareSens lancets	CareSens Dual, CareSens S Fit lancing device	0.31mm/30gauge	100	£2.95	£2.95	Spirit Health https://www.spirit-health.co.uk/medicines-optimisation/products-for-diabetics/blood-glucose-meters
Glucoject Lancets PLUS	GlucoFix Tech GK, Keya Smart lancing devices	0.2mm/33gauge	100	£3.77	£3.77	A. Menarini Diagnostics https://glucomenday.com/newplatform/en/glucoject-lancets/
			200	£5.50	£2.75	
GlucoRx Lancets	GlucoRx HCT, GlucoRx Q, Nexus Blue lancing devices	0.31mm/30gauge	200	£4.50	£2.25	GlucoRx https://www.glucoRx.co.uk/contact-us/
Greenlan Lancets	Finetest Lite lancing device	0.35mm/28gauge	100	£3.00	£3.00	Neon Diagnostics https://www.neondiagnosics.co.uk/contact
			200	£6.00		
Microlet lancets	Contour Plus lancing device	0.5mm/28gauge	100	£2.99	£2.99	Ascensia Diabetes Care https://www.diabetes.ascensia.co.uk/products/microlet-next/
			200	£5.98		
Neon Verifine Safety Lancets	Only if safety lancets are essential	1.8mm/30gauge	100	£2.99	£2.99	Neon Diagnostics https://www.neondiagnosics.co.uk/contact
On Call lancets	On Call Extra mobile, On Call and On Call Extra Voice lancing devices	0.3mm/30gauge	100	£2.75	£2.75	Connect 2 Pharma https://www.oncallmeters.co.uk/healthcare-professional/contact-us-hcp/
TRUEplus lancets	Universal fit - compatible with most lancing devices Trividia lancing device: TRUEdraw	0.32mm/30gauge	100	£2.90	£2.90	Trividia Health UK https://professionals.trividiahealth.co.uk/

See also entries on [Norfolk & Waveney NetFormulary](#) and guidance on  **Knowledge Now**

How to implement changes

- **Newly diagnosed patients with diabetes:** If SMBG is appropriate, use **recommended meters and blood test strips** (see [Key Message Bulletin 22](#)) with **recommended lancets**.
- **Existing patients using lancets:** Consider switching to a recommended cost effective choice as listed above (*even if meter /BGTS cannot be changed*). **Review** patients on Multi-device lancets (i.e. Fastclix) to check they still have specific need for this type of product.
- When a patient is switched, **remember to take the previous product off repeat.**
- Ensure that quantities on prescription are appropriate and in line with frequency of testing (i.e. should match quantities and frequency of ordering of blood glucose test strips).

Reference

1. NHS England: Commissioning recommendations following the national assessment of blood glucose and ketone meters, testing strips and lancets: v2 October 2023 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/commissioning-recommendations-blood-glucose-and-ketone-meters-testing-strips-and-lancets/>

Title	KEY MESSAGES Bulletin 23 Cost Effective Lancets for Patient self use
Description of policy	<i>To inform healthcare professionals</i>
Scope	<i>Prescribing information related to lancets used for blood glucose testing.</i>
Originally prepared by	Prescribing & Medicines Management Team (LS) in conjunction with Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)
Evidence base / Legislation	Level of Evidence: <i>A. based on national research-based evidence and is considered best evidence</i> B. mix of national and local consensus <i>C. based on local good practice and consensus in the absence of national research based information.</i>
Dissemination	Is there any reason why any part of this document should not be available on the public web site? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved by	<i>N&W ICB Senior Medicines Optimisation Team (24/01/24)</i>
Authorised by	<i>TBC For consideration by N&W TAG February 2024</i>
Review date and by whom	January 2026 – N&W ICB Medicines Optimisation Team
Date of issue	February 2024

Version	Date	Author	Status	Comment
0.2	7.1.13	Prescribing & MM Team & (LS&MC) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)	Draft	E mailed to Network Group for comments.
0.3	11/1/13	Prescribing & MM Team & (LS&MC) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)	Draft	IME-DC(Arctic Medical Ltd) deleted from cost effective choices based on cost of corresponding BGTS and needles.
0.4	12.1.13	Prescribing & MM Team & (LS&MC) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)	Draft	Key messages bullet point 4 amended statement about universal fit. Icare and caresens N added to suggested choice table. How to implement changes – amended wording
0.5	1/2/13	Prescribing & MM Team & (LS&MC) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)	Draft	Updated cost comparison with Feb 13 Drug Tariff. iCare added.
0.6	4/2/13	Prescribing & MM Team & (LS&MC) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)	Draft	How to implement changes- further wording amendments.
0.7	18.2.13	Prescribing & MM Team & (LS&MC) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)	Draft	Amended with comments from Prescribing Ref. Group: Title change, Unistik 3 info changed, safe disposal advice added.
0.8	6.3.13	Prescribing & MM Team & (LS&MC) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)	Draft	Amended with further comments from Network group re: safety lancets.
0.9	10.4.13	Prescribing & MM Team & (LS&MC) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)	Draft	New logo added.
0.91	12.6.13	Prescribing & MM Team & (LS&MC) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)	Draft	Ratified by Prescribing Ref Group with minor amendments 6.6.13
1.0	25.6.13	Prescribing & MM Team & (LS&MC) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW)	FINAL	Ratified by Drug & Therapeutics Commissioning Group 20.6.13

1.1	6.9.13	Prescribing & Medicines Management Team & (LS&MC)	Update	Cost comparison updated with Sept 13 Drug Tariff prices. New product Omnican Lance soft added as new product. Ratified by Prescribing Senior Team
1.2	16.6.14	Prescribing & Medicines Management Team & (LS&MC)	Update	Cost comparison updated with June 14 Drug Tariff prices. New product Sarsted safety lancets added. New NEL CSU template. Ratified by Senior Prescribing & Medicines Management Team
2.0	19.6.14	Prescribing & Medicines Management Team & (LS&MC)	FINAL	
2.1	11.12.14	Prescribing & Medicines Management Team & (LS&MC)	Update	NHS Norfolk and Waveney changed to CCGs in Norfolk and Waveney. Cost comparison updated Nov 14 Drug tariff
2.2	6/11/15	Prescribing & Medicines Management Team & (LS&MC)	Update	Cost comparison updated Nov 15 Drug tariff. Updated spend figure. Spend on unistiks added. In-version amendment to Glucoject lancets- re. pack size 200 and gauge
2.3	13/12/16	Prescribing & Medicines Management Team & (LS&MC)	Update	Updated lancets cost –comparison table – droplet and Vivachek lancets added.
2.4	5/1/18	Prescribing & Medicines Management Team & (LB&MC)	Update	Cost comparison updated. Reference to multiclix removed as discontinued. Fastclix added.
2.5	13/5/19	AGEM Medicines Optimisation Team LB/SN	Update	Cost comparison updated and full version removed from cost comparison – reference as separate document.
2.6	3/1/20	AGEM Medicines Optimisation Team	Update	Cost comparison updated
2.7	4/8/20	AGEM Medicines Optimisation Team	Update	Planned removal of Omnican Lance Soft from DT after 31/12/21 stated in text. Item removed from suggested choices table on page 1
3.0	07/05/21	AGEM Medicines Optimisation Team (FM)	Update	Expenditure figures updated with 2020/21 data. Complete check of pack sizes and price against Drug Tariff May 2021 and PrescQIPP Bulletin 276
4.0	23/01/24	Norfolk & Waveney ICB Medicines Optimisation Team (FM)	Draft Revision and Update	Expenditure figures updated with 2023 data. Reference to NHS England recommendations added. Guidance on safety lancets updated to recommend Neon Verifine Safety. Email address for generic meds queries In-box added. Previous recommended list and cost comparison list removed. N&W commissioned Lancets list (aligning with NHSE list) added. Links to Netformulary and Knowledge NoW added
4.1	Feb 2024	TAG Lead Technician	Final	Supported by the TAG