

Tirzepatide Commissioning - Medicines Optimisation Advice Bulletin – Updated August 2024

For the attention of primary and secondary care staff involved in patient care

- Tirzepatide is commissioned in Norfolk and Waveney only for treating Type 2 diabetes in accordance with the recommendation set out in the technology Appraisal [TA924](#).
- ‘Tirzepatide for managing overweight and obesity’ ([NICE ID6179](#)) is not commissioned. There should be no prescribing of Tirzepatide in primary or secondary care for weight management.

The ICB Medicines Optimisation team have been made aware of recent requests to prescribe Tirzepatide outside of these commissioned recommendations.

It is inappropriate to request prescribing of, or prescribe Tirzepatide in primary care:

- to manage weight where patient’s HbA1c is adequately controlled with triple therapy
- to manage weight pre-surgery
- to manage weight outside of Tier 3 weight management services

Diet and exercise support is not available in primary care for patients prescribed GLP1s or GLP-GITs treatment for weight loss. Prescribing outside of these recommendations will not be provided within the NHS. For instances where prescribing is recommended outside agreed commissioning, please contact the N&W ICB Medicines Optimisation Team and refer to the initiating clinician who may wish to review their recommendation.

Patients must be signposted to appropriate NHS service providers for weight management and obesity support and guidance.

Tirzepatide for treating Type 2 diabetes

NICE recently published [TA924 - Tirzepatide for treating type 2 diabetes](#). TAG have commissioned this as **ADVICE** - **Specialist advice required from primary or secondary care clinician with relevant expertise prior to primary care initiation.**

Tirzepatide is recommended for treating type 2 diabetes alongside diet and exercise in adults when it is insufficiently controlled only if:

- triple therapy with metformin and 2 other oral antidiabetic drugs is ineffective, not tolerated or contraindicated, **and**
- they have a body mass index (BMI) of 35 kg/m² or more, and specific psychological or other medical problems associated with obesity, or
- they have a BMI of less than 35 kg/m², and:
 - insulin therapy would have significant occupational implications, or
 - weight loss would benefit other significant obesity-related complications.

Please see [Netformulary](#) entry for further information

Tirzepatide for managing overweight and obesity - BLACK not commissioned.

On 8th November 2023, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) authorised a new indication for [tirzepatide](#) - **weight loss and weight management in adults aged 18 and over**. The medicine is to be used together with a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity.

NICE have not yet made a recommendation.

Publication of a NICE Technology Appraisal is expected in December 2024. Draft guidance can be viewed [here](#). Local commissioning arrangements will then be considered. In the meantime, there should be **no prescribing of Tirzepatide in primary or secondary care for weight management**.

Please email the medicines optimisation team with 'TAG' in the subject line if you have any further questions or comments - nwcb.medsqueries@nhs.net.

Many thanks for your support.

Sent on behalf of the Norfolk and Waveney Therapeutics Advisory Group