

Sent to via Email:

- General Practice
- Norfolk and Waveney Local Medical Committee
- PCN Clinical Directors

Dear colleagues,

As you will be aware, from 23 June 2025 in line with [NICE Technology Appraisal \(TA1026\): Tirzepatide for managing overweight and obesity](#), Norfolk and Waveney formulary will change to enable prescription of tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for obesity in primary care to eligible patients.

There are now 2 clinical indications where NICE has approved the use of tirzepatide (Mounjaro®):

- 1) In the management of hyperglycaemia in type 2 diabetes where:
 - a. triple therapy with metformin and 2 other oral antidiabetic drugs is ineffective, not tolerated or contraindicated, and
 - b. they have a body mass index (BMI) of 35 kg/m² or more, and specific psychological or other medical problems associated with obesity, or
 - c. they have a BMI of less than 35 kg/m² (BMI to be adjusted for ethnicity), and:
 - d. insulin therapy would have significant occupational implications, or
 - e. weight loss would benefit other significant obesity-related complications.
- 2) In the management of overweight and obesity in line with the phased implementation outlined in the [NHSE funding variation](#). Eligibility as described below.

In both circumstances the licence indication advises that tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) should be prescribed alongside dietary and physical activity advice and support. This is considered particularly important in the management of overweight and obesity where treatment should be prescribed in conjunction with a referral to the national Behavioural Support for Obesity Prescribing (BSOP) service to support longer term health benefits.

The Norfolk and Waveney Therapeutics Advisory Group (TAG) recommend implementation of tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) in line with NICE for treating type 2 diabetes (NICE TA924) and in accordance with the timelines set out in the [NHSE Interim commissioning guidelines](#) for the management of overweight and obesity ([TA1026](#)).

Current commissioning position in Norfolk and Waveney for all indications

Type 2 Diabetes

ADVICE – Tirzepatide is commissioned in Norfolk and Waveney for treating Type 2 diabetes in accordance with the recommendation set out in the technology Appraisal [TA924](#).

Managing overweight and obesity

RED – Tirzepatide is available via specialist weight management services for managing overweight and obesity as per [TA1026](#).

GREEN – Tirzepatide is **only** available in primary care for managing overweight and obesity for patients who have at least 4 of the 5 qualifying health conditions (type 2 DM, high blood pressure, heart disease, obstructive sleep apnoea and abnormal blood fats) plus a BMI of at least 35 (BMI to be adjusted for ethnicity) as per [TA1026](#) and the interim commissioning guidelines.

Updated formulary information will be available at Knowledge NoW: [Norfolk and Waveney Formulary](#)

Eligibility

It is not possible to provide treatment for all patients meeting the recommendation of NICE TA1026. Consequently, there is a funding variation in place supporting a phased implementation with access to treatment for patients with more complex clinical needs as a priority. The clinical criteria are set out by NHS England.

The [NHS England Interim Commissioning Guidance](#) for implementation of [TA1026](#) and associated [NICE Funding Variation](#) for tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for the management of weight details the priority cohort access group for Year 1 of the NICE Funding Variation Implementation 2025/26 as follows:

Clinical complexity defined as having at least **four** of the following comorbidities:

- Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD)
- Hypertension
- Dyslipidaemia
- Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA)
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

(full definitions detailed within table 2 of [NHS England Interim Commissioning Guidance](#))

AND for the **phase 2** cohort (i.e. the people who can be prescribed now)

BMI of **35** or more (BMI to be adjusted for ethnicity)

To support practices in identifying eligible patients the following resources will be available:

- Patient searches – these are being created by Ardens to respond to national need (we will advise practices once these are available)
- Patient status marker – locally requested, Ardens are developing, and we will advise practices once this is available)
- Eclipse search – A population health prioritisation search is available on Eclipse. (Log into: NHS Pathways > VISTA>NHS Obesity Programme>Priority Patients>Year 1)
- Data showing ICB aggregate modelling of eligibility per practice, PCN or place over years 1-3 can be made available on request at: nwicb.tirzepatide@nhs.net

Behavioural Support for Obesity Prescribing (BSOP) (Wraparound provision)

NICE Technology Appraisal TA1026, alongside the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) product licence for tirzepatide (Mounjaro®), defines structured wraparound care as an essential component of treatment. Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) must be prescribed in conjunction with a reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity to support weight management outcomes.

Wraparound care comprises two distinct elements:

1. Clinical support: including such as safe prescribing, review of side effects, up titration as clinically appropriate, review and management of comorbidities, management of potential drug interactions etc. Responsibility for clinical support sits with the prescriber.
2. Behavioural support: to support sustainable behavioural change through structured interventions.

Building on learning from the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (NHS DPP), NHS England has been working with providers to offer a bespoke tailored interim Behavioural Support for Obesity Prescribing (BSOP) service for patients prescribed tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for obesity management in primary care. This is suitable for everyone prescribed tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) even where they have previously attended NDPP. Support through the BSOP programme is considered particularly important given that these are new therapies. Ensuring healthy balanced nutrition in the context of appetite suppression on tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) along with behavioural change and physical activity interventions is essential for holistic care.

In Norfolk and Waveney the NDPP provider who will now also provide BSOP is [Xyla Services](#).

BSOP Referral forms and referrer queries: please email: scwsc.norfolkwaveney-bsop@nhs.net

BSOP patient enquiries: please email: BSOPenquiries@xylaservices.com

Longer term, a dedicated, competitively procured wrap around care behavioural support service for patients prescribed tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for obesity management in primary care will be commissioned by NHS England and is expected to be made available from April 2026.

More details about the BSOP provision will be made available on Knowledge NoW including patient and referrer leaflets.

Reporting to GP practices will mirror that of the NDPP programme. Practices will be informed at the following points on the status of their referrals where applicable:

- Referral Received
- Programme Start
- Not Started - Discharged
- Not Completed - Discharged
- Completed

This information will be sent to the contacts Xyla currently has on file for NDPP. If a GP practice needs any additional contacts to be added to receive this information, please do let us know at nwicb.tirzepatide@nhs.net and we will pass the request onto Xyla. Please be aware that this contact list will be used for both NDPP and BSOP.

Referral to the BSOP service to support prescribing of tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) in primary care is not part of the Enhanced Service for weight management and will not attract a referral payment under [Weight Management Enhanced Service 2025/26](#).

Primary Care Resources:

The ICB is generating a range of useful resources, and these will be made available to practices over the coming weeks via Knowledge NoW to support practices who wish to make treatment available to eligible patients including:

- A local GP prescribing pathway
- Alternative services pathway (showing the range of support offers available in Norfolk and Waveney for management of overweight and obesity)
- NICE resources on:
 - Initial assessment before prescribing tirzepatide (Mounjaro®)
 - Counselling before prescribing tirzepatide (Mounjaro®)
 - Follow up and monitoring when prescribing tirzepatide (Mounjaro®)
- Available e-learning support on the NHS Learning Hub for management of obesity and overweight

- Patient leaflets and information on prescribing
- Primary care communications toolkit

We will continue to add further resources to Knowledge NoW as implementation progresses and will keep general practice updated on additions.

The Norfolk and Waveney LMC webpage will also be a helpful source of information for general practice: [Weight Loss Management / Bariatric Care | Norfolk & Waveney Local Medical Committee](#)

Commissioning plans in Norfolk and Waveney

ICBs have received budget allocations as part of their 2025/26 funding for patient management costs associated with delivering weight management services in primary care settings [additional ICB core programme allocation]. This is specifically intended to support service delivery structures for clinical patient management related to tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for obesity management in the community. How this funding is used is at the discretion of each ICB.

In Norfolk and Waveney, the ICB has been carefully considering how best to deploy the available resource, drawing on input from the LMC and insights from the recent tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) survey with general practices. We're grateful to all the practices who took the time to respond.

Based on this engagement and analysis, the ICB has identified that the most effective use of the funding for eligible cohorts 1 and 2 will be to commission a dedicated community-based delivery model to support safe and equitable prescribing. This will also allow us time to develop clinical expertise and confidence in the new weight management pathways across the system and ensure that everyone who is eligible can access treatment regardless of which practice they are registered with.

We anticipate this provision will become available later in 2025. Updates will be shared via the ICB's usual communication channels and on our public webpage: <https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk/our-work/healthier-communities/medicines/tirzepatide-frequently-asked-questions/>.

As we work through the phases of implementation, the ICB will aim to implement in the longer term a more integrated obesity service model across both specialist and primary care services in line with [NICE guideline NG246 \(Overweight and obesity management\)](#) and in consideration of the likely need to coordinate arrangements with SNEE ICB given expected changes to ICB organisation. We will work closely with stakeholders in the development of these longer-term arrangements.

To be clear: there is no expectation that all GP practices will offer tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for the management of obesity from 23 June 2025. The ICB is taking steps and providing supporting resources now to make sure that those practices that have the necessary clinical expertise, experience and confidence are able to do so from this date. If practices do not feel ready to initiate prescribing at this stage within the initial arrangements, they may advise eligible patients that the ICB is in the process of developing a community-based service model to support access to tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) and to which they will be able to refer very soon.

In the interim, practices should continue to use their clinical judgement to determine the most appropriate weight management support for each patient. This may include signposting to other NHS weight management services where clinically appropriate and in line with local pathways. Please note that referral volumes into specialist weight management services should be carefully considered to avoid unintended pressure on specialist services while the community model is being developed.

Managing patient queries

Practices receiving queries from patients about access to tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for obesity will be able to point them to the following ICB web page, which will be kept updated:

<https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk/our-work/healthier-communities/medicines/tirzepatide-frequently-asked-questions/>

The patient facing information on this website will provide the following key messages to patients:

- Patients should check eligibility against the national criteria.
- Patients who may be eligible may wish to discuss this as a treatment option with their GP but only after **23 June 2025**.
- Patients who do not meet the eligibility criteria for cohort 1 should not seek a prescription in primary care.
- It is important that practices feel safe, equipped and ready before offering this new treatment to patients. Some practices may not feel they are able to offer this treatment directly themselves at the current time.
- If practices do not feel ready, they may signpost patients to other NHS weight management services that may be more appropriate or advise eligible patients that they are waiting for the ICB to establish the tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) community service.
- Wherever possible patients should try to check for any updates on availability of services and the latest eligibility rules via the ICB web pages rather than asking GP practices.

The ICB will take the following actions to help ensure patients receive consistent messaging about eligibility and the other key points above:

- Supporting distribution of proactive social media messaging that is being made available by NHS England
- Sharing the latest information and patient messaging with the ICB's patient experience team, Healthwatch and other system stakeholders including secondary care and local authority partners

As outlined earlier in this letter, the ICB will also make resources available to practices on Knowledge NoW to support with management of patient enquiries related to tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for obesity including a patient leaflet and primary care communications toolkit.

The implementation of tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for obesity in primary care represents a positive new opportunity for the management of obesity and we thank practices for your support as we work to develop pathways and manage patient expectations and enquiries.

If you wish to raise any questions, share feedback or suggestions specifically about the implementation of tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) for obesity please use this email address: nwicb.tirzepatide@nhs.net. We will share answers to any frequently asked questions we receive with practices via established communication channels including the GP bulletin and Connect NoW.

With many thanks for your support,

Dr Mike Smith
Deputy Medical Director, Norfolk and Waveney ICB

Copied:

- NWICB Medicines Optimisation Team
- NWICB Place Teams
- NWICB Primary Care Team
- NWICB Finance Team
- NWICB Planned Care Clinical Transformation Team

Appendix – useful links

National: NICE

[NICE Technology Appraisal \(TA1026\): Tirzepatide for managing overweight and obesity](#)

[NICE Technology Appraisal \(TA924\): Tirzepatide for treating type 2 diabetes](#)

[NICE guideline NG246 \(Overweight and obesity management\)](#)

National: NHS England

[NHSE funding variation](#)

[NHSE Interim commissioning guidelines](#)

[Weight Management Enhanced Service 2025/26](#)

Local - ICB:

[Norfolk and Waveney Net Formulary](#)

[Knowledge NoW](#)

[Norfolk and Waveney ICB patient facing tirzepatide \(Mounjaro ®\) information](#)

Local - other:

[Behavioural Support for Obesity Prescribing Service provider - Xyla Services](#)

[Weight Loss Management / Bariatric Care | Norfolk & Waveney Local Medical Committee](#)