

Sodium-Glucose Co-Transporter-2 Inhibitors (SGLT-2i) Position Statement

Summary

NHS South West London recommends **generic dapagliflozin** as the preferred SGLT-2i for the treatment of type 2 diabetes (with or without chronic kidney disease) and/or heart failure.

Rationale

SGLT-2i are used in the management of type 2 diabetes (T2DM), chronic heart failure (HF), and chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Generic dapagliflozin is now available and represents an opportunity for significant cost savings for the region and is available at a much lower acquisition cost than other SGLT-2i options.

In South West London it is recommended that the SGLT-2i, with the lowest acquisition cost, is used, wherever clinically appropriate in line with licensed indications. All licensed SGLT-2i have similar efficacy.

This position statement does not apply to the use of generic dapagliflozin in patients with CKD **without** T2DM and/or HF, because it is currently patent protected.

Recommendations

Refer to the [SWL Joint formulary](#) for local recommendations for use of SGLT-2i.

Guidance and Key actions for clinicians

- All new patients requiring an SGLT-2i for the treatment of T2DM (with or without CKD) and/or HF should be prescribed generic dapagliflozin in line with [product license](#).
- Existing patients prescribed generic dapagliflozin for licensed indications should remain on it.
- Change all existing patients prescribed either canagliflozin, empagliflozin and ertugliflozin for T2DM (with or without CKD) and/or HF to generic dapagliflozin, where clinically appropriate. Please refer to [product license](#).

Guidance for patients, carers, and guardians

- As part of shared decision making, patients switched from another SGLT-2i to generic dapagliflozin with a patient information leaflet. In addition, provide information on the reason for the switch to a cost-effective formulation, to ensure understanding and support adherence.

Safety Alerts

[MHRA alerts](#) on SGLT-2i include risks of:

- [Diabetic Ketoacidosis](#) (DKA) (especially in insulin-treated patients)
- [Fournier's gangrene](#)
- [Lower limb amputation](#) (mainly with canagliflozin)
- [UTIs](#)

References

1. NHS England. Letter to system- Optimizing prescribing of SGLT-2 inhibitors with generic dapagliflozin. October 2025
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10. Empagliflozin SmPC. Accessed at <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc> on February 2026
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12. Acknowledgement for NHS Sussex and NHS Surrey Heartlands ICBs

Document History

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