

Tirzepatide interim Position Statement on its use for managing overweight and obesity

Summary

NICE are due to publish guidance on use of tirzepatide for managing overweight and obesity' in December 2024. They are currently consulting on a funding variation that will extend the implementation period for this guidance from the usual 90-days. The funding variation includes an additional 90 days before any requirement on ICBs to fund the medicine, providing a 180-day implementation period. Following the 180 days, a period of three years where eligibility will increase in stages has been proposed. Following this, up to a maximum of a further nine years, (12 years in total) could be built into the phasing dependent upon maturation of the local obesity treatment pathway in primary care.

Rationale

Following publication of the guidance, NHS South West London will need to review existing weight management services and pathways to incorporate the recommendations. In the interim, there should be no prescribing of tirzepatide in primary or secondary care for weight management.

Recommendations

Tirzepatide is non formulary and not recommended for the indication of weight loss and obesity across all settings. The formulary status will be reviewed once NICE publishes guidance use for this indication.

Guidance for clinicians

- Prescribing of tirzepatide off-label solely for weight loss (in the absence of a type 2 diabetes diagnosis) is not supported.
- Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) must only be prescribed for the treatment type 2 diabetes in adults and outlined in its [monograph entry in the SWL Joint Medicines Formulary](#).
- At this point in time, it is inappropriate to request prescribing of or prescribe tirzepatide to manage weight where patient's HbA1c is adequately controlled with oral triple therapy (excluding oral semaglutide).

Guidance for patients, carers, and guardians

- Patients who have been self-funding tirzepatide or other weight loss medications, prior to the publication of NICE guidance, who meet the eligibility criteria, may need to continue funding their treatment, until SWL weight management pathways are updated.
- Please do not contact your GP practice with a request to prescribe.
- The NHS belongs to you, use it responsibly.

References

[NICE TA in development Tirzepatide for managing overweight and obesity \[ID6179\]](#)

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