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1st July 2025

Dear Colleague,

Introduction of new Locally Commissioned Service: Tirzepatide Prescribing for Obesity 2025-26 (Implementation of NICE Funding Variation Cohort One in General Practice 2025-26)

From 23 June 2025 a patient who meets the NHS priority cohort qualifying criteria for obesity should be able to access a Tirzepatide (Mounjaro) prescribing pathway in a primary care setting, if both patient and clinician agree it is the most appropriate treatment option. We are aware that practices have been receiving significant numbers of patient queries about Tirzepatide and apologise for the delay in publishing this LCS which, due to some national implementation delays, has been unavoidable.

The full national roll-out of Tirzepatide for obesity in the NHS is planned over 12 years and is described in a [NICE Funding Variation](#). This is to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in general practice as well as affordability. Access to Tirzepatide via the NHS will be prioritised for those with the greatest risk of ill health or who are experiencing severe ill health due to living with obesity in a staged approach as detailed in the table below (first 3 years).

The qualifying criteria for Cohort 1 (2025-26) is a **BMI of 40** or more and **four or more** of the following diagnosed health conditions:

- Type 2 diabetes
- Hypertension
- Cardiovascular disease
- Obstructive sleep apnoea
- Dyslipidaemia

Table 1. Cohort Access Groups for Implementation in primary care Settings.

Funding Variation Year*	Estimated Cohort Duration	Cohorts	Cohort Access Groups	
			Comorbidities	BMI**
Year 1 (2025/26)	12 months	Cohort I	≥4 'qualifying' comorbidities hypertension, dyslipidaemia, obstructive sleep apnoea, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus	≥ 40
Year 2 (2026/27)	9 months	Cohort II	≥4 'qualifying' comorbidities hypertension, dyslipidaemia, obstructive sleep apnoea, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus	≥35 – 39.9
Year 2/3 (2026 and 2027/28)	15 months	Cohort III	3 'qualifying' comorbidities hypertension, dyslipidaemia, obstructive sleep apnoea, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus	≥ 40

Access to the medication goes hand in hand with behavioural support from a specific 'wraparound' support service. It is mandatory for those being prescribed Tirzepatide for an obesity indication on the NHS to engage with the wraparound service. The service focuses on nutritional advice to support health and increasing physical activity and will, in Sussex, be provided by Xyla (current provider of the NDPP).

NHS Sussex have developed a new locally commissioned service in collaboration with the LMC for the prescribing of Tirzepatide for an obesity indication to Cohort 1 in 2025-26. It is intended to issue a further LCS for Cohorts 2 and 3 next year.

Ardens have provided searches for practices to be able to identify their Cohorts and Apex are working on the Management Information aspect which will be released in due course.

Practices must not prescribe Tirzepatide for an obesity indication outside the criteria above. Payments will not be made in this circumstance.

NHS England have commissioning responsibility for the wraparound service and have currently allocated 619 places for Sussex in 2025-6. As engagement with the wraparound service is mandatory, this means that the number of patients who can be prescribed Tirzepatide for obesity is also limited to 619. NHS Sussex estimates that there may be significantly more eligible patients in Cohort 1 in Sussex. Because of this NHS Sussex will

be monitoring the activity of this LCS very closely and will inform practices if the wraparound capacity will be exceeded and request that no new patients are offered assessment under the LCS until further wraparound capacity can be secured. NHS Sussex is working with NHSE to find solutions to this issue.

The LCS specification is attached. Please return your sign-up request via email to sxicb.sussex-lcs-claims@nhs.net. Practices must run the Ardens search for Cohort 1 (see specification) and send a screenshot to NHS Sussex as part of sign-up (if not already sent with the expression of interest). This will help greatly in planning for service capacity. In either case, we would ask you to let us know your position by Friday 11th July 2025.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Kellett
Deputy Director
Primary Care Commissioning

Dr Bruce Allan
Clinical Lead
Primary Care

On behalf of NHS Sussex