

**1. Pathway guidance: Managing GLP1 receptor agonist shortages in adults with type 2 diabetes** (supply problems expected until mid-2024 but subject to change)  
For persons under the age of 18 years please seek specialist advice from paediatric/transition teams.

**TOP TIPS:**

1. GLP1RAs should only be prescribed for their licensed indication
2. **DO NOT initiate any new GLP1RA (including Rybelsus®)**
3. Review the need for prescribing a GLP1RA and stop treatment if no beneficial metabolic response as per NICE NG28 (reduction of HbA1c of at least 11 mmol/mol and weight loss of at least 3%)
4. **DO NOT switch between brands**
5. DO NOT substitute by doubling up a lower dose preparation
6. Promote access to structured education/ weight management programmes

**All GLP1 receptor agonists (GLP1RA) are affected:**

Ozempic®, Rybelsus®, Trulicity®, Victoza®, Byetta®, Bydureon®, Lyxumia® and Saxenda® (licensed for weight loss only)

GLP1-RA unavailable

No beneficial metabolic response to GLP1-RA at 6 months ie: HbA1c reduction < 11mmol/mol and Weight loss < 3% of initial body-weight

Discuss with patient the need to consider alternative therapy in line with joint PCDS ABCD guidance based on current shortages found on page 6: [PCDS\\_ABCD GLP-1 RA shortage\\_20230710.pdf](#)

Inform the patient that intermittent supply may be associated with erratic blood glucose control, increased side-effects and potential diabetes-related complications

Established on insulin

Optimise insulin (including adding bolus fast acting insulin of choice)/oral agent as appropriate

Not on insulin

Last HbA1c >86 mmol/mol

Last HbA1c 58-86 mmol/mol

Last HbA1c <58 mmol/mol

1. When initiating or adjusting insulin, take into account: <https://gmmmg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/GMMMG-Insulin-Prescribing-Aid-for-Adults-with-Type-2-Diabetes-V-1-1-PaGDSG-approved.pdf> and <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/prescribing-available-insulins/>
2. Consider sulphonylureas (e.g. gliclazide) if insulin not suitable.

1. Optimise oral agents and consider additional therapy as per page 6 of: [PCDS\\_ABCD GLP-1 RA shortage\\_20230710.pdf](#)
  2. If established on maximum tolerated oral doses, consider initiating insulin taking account of individual patient characteristics, local guidance and availability of products.
- NB: Refer to management of hyperglycaemia in T2D (see pages 2a and 2b below).*

1. Optimise oral agents.
2. Avoid adding or increasing Sulphonylureas due to hypoglycaemia burden.
3. Consider additional therapy as per page 6 of: [PCDS\\_ABCD GLP-1 RA shortage\\_20230710.pdf](#)

**2a. How to manage hyperglycaemia in adults with T2D & minimise risk during GLP1-RA shortages & insulin supply issues** (supply problems expected until mid-2024 but subject to change)  
For persons under the age of 18 years please seek specialist advice from paediatric/transition teams.

**AT DIAGNOSIS**

- Offer lifestyle and diet advice. Signpost to diabetes education, either locality provision or GM digital offer, see <https://elearning.diabetesmyway.nhs.uk/> for registration information.
- Consider eligibility for referral to the NHS Type 2 Diabetes Path to Remission (low-calorie diet), see <https://momentanewcastle.com/hcp-t2dr-gm> for referral information.
- Individualised HbA1c target based on patient specific factors, as per **NICE Guidance**, see <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng28> for further information.

If marked osmotic symptoms (thirst, tiredness, nocturia, weight loss) and or HbA1c > 86mmol/mol

**Rescue Therapy: insulin or sulfonylurea:**

- Exclude type 1 diabetes.
- Immediately start metformin PLUS insulin or sulfonylurea depending on symptoms, blood glucose levels, and ketone testing.
- When starting insulin, the person with diabetes must receive education and support from an appropriately trained HCP.
- Consider **urgent** discussion with local specialist team.

- Check urine ACR, measure eGFR to assess for any established CKD.
- Assess for any established ASCVD/HF or risk factors for CVD.

**In the presence of any CKD/ risk factors for CVD (see page 2b), established CVD or heart failure:**

- Offer of dual therapy of metformin with an SGLT2i\* (see page 3 below) with proven benefit unless contraindicated as soon as practicable/tolerated.
- Use an SGLT2i\* (see page 3 below) as monotherapy if Metformin to include MR is not tolerated/contraindicated.

HbA1c remains above individualised target despite appropriate monotherapy.

**Initiate metformin therapy:**

- (If metformin contraindicated /not tolerated consider SGLT2i, DPP4i (taking into account cost-effectiveness), sulfonylureas, or pioglitazone, based on patient factors).
- Monitor HbA1c after 3 months.
- Target HbA1c <48mmol/mol **or Individualised**.

HbA1c above individualised target level and not at high CVD risk/no established ASCVD/heart failure or CKD

**DUAL THERAPY: lifestyle management +/- metformin + additional agent:**

- Choose second agent after consideration of the presence of Established CVD, heart failure and/or CKD, specific drug effects and person-specific factors.
- e.g., SGLT2i (see prescribing tool on page 3 below), GLP1-RA\*, DPP4i\*\*, sulfonylureas or pioglitazone. Monitor HbA1c after 3 months.
- Target HbA1c 58 mmol/mol **or individualised**: If at target, continue to monitor every 3-6 months.

\* When supplies are regularly available.

\*\* Saxagliptin & Allogliptin: Studies show a potential increased risk of heart failure

HbA1c remains above individualised target despite appropriate dual therapy

**TRIPLE THERAPY: lifestyle management +/- metformin + two additional agents:**

Add a third agent after consideration of the presence of CVD risk, established CVD, Heart failure and/or CKD and patient factors such as age, eGFR and BMI.

**If CVD risk/established CVD heart failure and/or CKD, then SGLT2i should be considered.** Monitor HbA1c after 3months - target HbA1c <53mmol/mol **or individualised**:

- If at target, continue to monitor every 3-6 months.
- If not at target, assess medication adherence .
- Consider trial of an alternative medication.

**2b.** How to manage hyperglycaemia in adults with T2D & minimise risk during GLP1-RA shortages & insulin supply issues [*continued*] (supply problems expected to mid-2024 - subject to change)  
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## Definition of high risk of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD)

Adults with Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) who have:

- QRISK >10% and aged >40yrs.
- Clinical judgement of an elevated lifetime risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) - defined as the presence of one or more of the below CVD in someone <40yrs:
  - Hypertension;
  - Dyslipidaemia;
  - Smoking;
  - Obesity;
  - family history (in a first degree relative) of premature CVD;
  - Proteinuria: ACR >30 mg/mmol.

## Primary Prevention

**High Risk of CVD/Heart Failure (HF) Prevention**

Initiate metformin +

SGLT2i – with proven benefit\* (see prescribing tool on page 3 below).

\* *Dapagliflozin has the strongest evidence in primary prevention.*

## Secondary Prevention

**ASCVD (Prior MI, Stroke, Revascularization (CABG or PCI), peripheral arterial disease)**

Initiate metformin +

- SGLT2i – **canagliflozin** and **empagliflozin** have evidence for a reduction in MACE (Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events)  
**canagliflozin, dapagliflozin** and **empagliflozin** reduced the risk of HF in those with established ASCVD

**Heart Failure**

Standard care + licensed SGLT2-i (see prescribing tool on page 3 below)

NICE has approved:

- **dapagliflozin 10mg** for treating symptomatic chronic heart failure with and without T2D.
- **empagliflozin 10mg** is licensed to treat symptomatic chronic heart failure with and without T2D.

## CKD – standard care + licensed SGLT2-i

- **dapagliflozin 10mg** for the treatment of CKD with or without T2D.
- **canagliflozin 100mg** for the treatment of CKD in T2D only.
- **empagliflozin 10mg** for the treatment of CKD with or without T2D.

**3.**

**Choosing who to initiate on SGLT2 inhibitors for glucose control**

(please refer to individual SPCs for current information on product licences)

<p><b>Safe to prescribe</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First-line if Metformin intolerant/contraindicated AND HF/CVD OR QRISK2 ≥10%. Also if Pioglitazone and Sulphonylurea inappropriate</li> <li>• Second-line with Metformin OR third-line as add-on to other agents including insulin and GLP1RA</li> <li>• Established CVD or High risk of CVD (QRISK2 ≥ 10%)</li> <li>• History of HF (including receiving loop diuretics)</li> <li>• Prior stroke</li> <li>• Established CKD / DKD (check individual SPC for renal advice)</li> <li>• Overweight (BMI ≥25 Kg/m2)</li> <li>• Need to minimise hypoglycaemia</li> <li>• No history of LLA or PAD</li> <li>• Osteoporosis or history of fractures</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prescribe with caution</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long duration of diabetes (&gt;10 years from diagnosis)</li> <li>• Recurrent UTIs or recurrent genital mycotic infections</li> <li>• Long-term catheter</li> <li>• Frail/ elderly (age &gt;75 years)/ cognitive impairment</li> <li>• Adherence problems</li> <li>• Use of a medication compliance aid e.g., MDS</li> <li>* HbA1c &gt;86 mmol/mol</li> <li>* BMI &lt;25 Kg/m2</li> <li>* Ketogenic/ low carbohydrate diets/ low calorie diet (do not prescribe if in total diet replacement phase of the NHS Low Calorie Diet Programme)</li> <li>* Previous LLA</li> <li>* Active or history of diabetic foot ulcers</li> <li>* History of PAD</li> <li>* Long term or recurrent courses of steroids</li> </ul>
<p><b>Do not prescribe</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute illness (wait at least a few days after illness resolved and ensure person is eating and drinking normally again before considering initiation)</li> <li>• Recent major surgery</li> <li>• DKA or history of DKA</li> <li>• Excessive alcohol intake (binge drinking and &gt;14 units/week on a regular basis)</li> <li>• IVDU</li> <li>• Eating disorders</li> <li>• Rapid Progression to insulin (within 1 year of diagnosis)</li> <li>• Age &lt;18 years /Type 1 Diabetes / LADA / genetic diabetes</li> <li>• Diabetes due to pancreatic disease</li> <li>• Ketosis-prone Type 2 Diabetes</li> <li>• History of Fournier’s Gangrene</li> <li>• Pregnancy, planning pregnancy or breastfeeding</li> <li>• eGFR &lt;45mL/min/1.73m2 **</li> <li>• Severe liver impairment (Child-Pugh score C)</li> </ul>

\* Please discuss with specialist team (can refer to practice/PCN clinician with specialist interest in diabetes if applicable or contact the hospital diabetes team)

\*\* NB Can be used in eGFR <45mL/min/1,73m2 if for CKD/heart failure.

**SPC:** Summary Product Characteristics; **GLP1RA:** Glucagon-like Peptide-1 Receptor Agonists; **CVD:** Cardiovascular Disease; **HF:** Heart Failure; **BMI:** Body Mass Index; **CKD:** Chronic Kidney Disease; **DKD:** Diabetic Kidney Disease; **LLA:** Lower Limb Amputation; **PAD:** Peripheral Arterial Disease; **HbA1c:** Glycated Haemoglobin; **UTI:** Urinary Tract Infection; **MDS:** Monitored Dosage System; **DKA:** Diabetic Ketoacidosis; **IVDU:** Intravenous Drug Usage; **LADA:** Latent Autoimmune Diabetes of Adults; **eGFR:** Estimated glomerular filtration rate; **ACR:** Albumin to Creatinine Ratio.