Incretin therapies: Overview of recent developments and Greater Manchester formulary, and guidance updates

9th October 2026

Dear colleagues,

This communication summarises recent updates to GMMMG formulary and guidance relating to incretin therapies, including GLP-1 receptor agonists and tirzepatide. Please share it with relevant colleagues within your organisation.

Key Updates

1. Incretin therapy commissioning position and prescribing guidance

GMMMG has approved the updated Incretin Therapy Commissioning Position and Prescribing Guidance. The guidance brings together eligibility, commissioning and prescribing arrangements for incretin therapies in Greater Manchester, it includes information to support initiation and review of treatment, including advice on adjusting other medicines including insulin. It can be accessed via Clinical Guidance and Pathways - GMMMG and should be used alongside the relevant formulary and pathway information.

2. TA1152: subcutaneous semaglutide (Wegovy®) for reducing cardiovascular risk in people with established cardiovascular disease.

GMMMG has initially approved Wegovy® for this indication with a green specialist initiation classification. For people who meet the NICE TA1152 eligibility criteria, treatment may be initiated by an appropriate specialist service, with transfer of ongoing prescribing to primary care. Eligible adults must have established cardiovascular disease, (defined as previous myocardial infarction, ischaemic or haemorrhagic stroke, or symptomatic peripheral arterial disease), and a body mass index of at least 27 kg/m².

The green specialist initiation classification means that people who are already under the care of a relevant specialist service, including those receiving follow-up after a recent cardiovascular event, may be identified and considered for treatment through their existing care arrangements.

Clear communication between the clinical team initiating treatment, and primary care is important. Before treatment is initiated, the specialist is encouraged to liaise with the GP practice, so that arrangements for ongoing prescribing can be considered.

It is expected that there are also a substantial number of people who are eligible but no longer under the care of a specialist service. Work is therefore ongoing to establish a safe, consistent and manageable approach to identifying these people and agreeing a pathway that enables initiation and dose titration in primary care at scale.

3. Type 2 diabetes medicines pathway: consultation

GMMMG will shortly consult on a GM type 2 diabetes prescribing pathway, based on NICE guideline NG28. The formal six-week consultation is expected to open in early November, and colleagues across GM are invited to feedback via the GMMMG consultations webpage. The current GM formulary remains in place while the pathway is being consulted on and considered through established governance process.

4. Oral semaglutide: Wegovy® and Rybelsus®

Oral Wegovy® was licensed by MHRA for weight management in June 2026. It is not available for NHS prescribing in GM, and NICE discontinued its appraisal of oral Wegovy® in May 2025.

Rybelsus® is licensed and available for the treatment of type 2 diabetes only. Although Rybelsus® and Wegovy® both contain oral semaglutide and are available in similar tablet strengths, they are not interchangeable. When prescribing oral semaglutide for type 2 diabetes, prescribe by the brand name Rybelsus®.

Use of Rybelsus® outside its licensed indication for weight management could place additional pressure on supplies for people with type 2 diabetes.

5. Orforglipron (Foundayo®)

Orforglipron is a new once-daily oral GLP-1 RA. It was licensed by MHRA for weight management and the treatment of type 2 diabetes in August 2026. Orforglipron is not currently available for NHS prescribing in Greater Manchester.

NICE is currently appraising orforglipron for managing overweight and obesity, it should not be prescribed for weight management in advance of NICE guidance, and until the relevant NHS Greater Manchester governance processes have been completed and it is adopted onto the formulary.

NICE will not make a specific recommendation on orforglipron for type 2 diabetes because NICE guideline NG28 already includes recommendations for this class of medicine. GMMMG will therefore review orforglipron for use in GM when the NHS list price and other information needed for a local assessment are available. It is not currently available for NHS prescribing for type 2 diabetes.

6. Tirzepatide for weight management

The Greater Manchester commissioning position has been updated for 2026/27. The key changes include:

- NHS Greater Manchester now supports implementation for all eligible patients within NHS England Cohorts 1 and 2.
- The separately commissioned Greater Manchester Primary Care Weight Management Service is being superseded on a run-off basis and has not accepted new patients since April 2026. Patients who started treatment through the service during 2025/26 will continue under the existing arrangements until treatment is completed or discontinued.
- New patients will be assessed and managed through routine GP practice under the GP contract, with referral to the nationally commissioned wrap-around behavioural support service delivered in NHS Greater Manchester by Reed Wellbeing.
- Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) indicator OB005 now supports the primary care tirzepatide pathway for eligible patients within the NICE TA1026 funding variation cohorts.

For more information, see the Greater Manchester tirzepatide commissioning statement.

Supporting safe and equitable access

To support clear and consistent information for patients, please continue to follow the agreed Greater Manchester eligibility criteria and service arrangements, and direct prescribing requests through the appropriate pathways.

Thank you for your continued support in this challenging area and for helping to maintain safe and equitable access to treatment across Greater Manchester.

Yours sincerely,
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On behalf of the Greater Manchester Medicines Management Group

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