

LIRAGLUTIDE injection (Saxenda®) for managing overweight and obesity

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of LIRAGLUTIDE injection (Saxenda®), by specialists only, for managing overweight and obesity within a Tier 3 secondary care weight management service, in accordance with NICE TA664.

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Saxenda® is not interchangeable with the other licensed brand of liraglutide, Victoza®, which is only licensed for the management of diabetes. **Victoza® is not licensed as a pharmacological treatment option for weight management and should not be used for this indication.**

The starting dose of Saxenda® is 0.6 mg once daily. Daily doses higher than 3.0 mg are not recommended. Refer to [SPC](#) for dosage schedule.^[1]

[NICE technology appraisal \(TA\) 664](#) recommends liraglutide injection (Saxenda®) as an option for managing overweight and obesity alongside a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity in adults, only if:

- > they have a body mass index (BMI) of at least 35 kg/m² (or at least 32.5 kg/m² for members of minority ethnic groups known to be at equivalent risk of the consequences of obesity at a lower BMI than the white population) **and**
- > they have non-diabetic hyperglycaemia (defined as a haemoglobin A1c level of 42 mmol/mol to 47 mmol/mol [6.0 to 6.4%] or a fasting plasma glucose level of 5.5 mmol/litre to 6.9 mmol/litre) **and**
- > they have a high risk of cardiovascular disease based on risk factors such as hypertension and dyslipidaemia **and**
- > it is prescribed in secondary care by a specialist multidisciplinary tier 3 weight management service **and**
- > the company provides it according to the commercial arrangement.^[2]

NICE TA 664 should be used alongside NICE Public health guideline [PH38] [Type 2 diabetes: prevention in people at high risk](#) (updated September 2017).

NICE estimates that 11 patients per 100,000 will be treated per annum, and that the cost of implementing NICE TA664 is £6,000 per 100,000 population for the remainder of financial year 2020/21, rising to £29,000 per 100,000 population in 2021/22 and then £45,000 per 100,000 population in 2022/23 when steady state is assumed to have been reached. These costs have been calculated using the NHS list price. As there is a commercial in confidence commercial arrangement available, the actual cost of implementing this TA guidance will therefore be considerably less.

References

1. Novo Nordisk Limited. Summary of Product Characteristics, [Saxenda 6 mg/mL solution for injection in pre-filled pen](#), September 2020. Accessed online 27 January 2021.
2. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Technology Appraisal 664; [Liraglutide for managing overweight and obesity](#); 09 December 2020. Accessed online 10 December 2020.

Note: Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this statement may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. In this situation, follow locally defined processes.