

SEMAGLUTIDE injection (Wegovy® ▼) for managing overweight and obesity

The Cheshire and Merseyside Area Prescribing Group recommends the prescribing of SEMAGLUTIDE injection (Wegovy® ▼), by specialists only, for managing overweight and obesity within a specialist weight management service, in accordance with NICE TA875.

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Note: Wegovy® is not interchangeable with the other licensed brand of semaglutide, Ozempic®, which is only licensed for the management of diabetes. **Ozempic® is not licensed as a pharmacological treatment option for weight management and should not be used for this indication.**

NICE technology appraisal (TA) 875 (08 March 2023, updated 04 September 2023) recommends semaglutide injection (Wegovy®) as an option for weight management, including weight loss and weight maintenance, alongside a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity in adults, only if:

- > it is used for a maximum of 2 years, and within a specialist weight management service providing multidisciplinary management of overweight or obesity (including but not limited to tiers 3 and 4), **and**
- > they have at least 1 weight-related comorbidity **and**:
 - a body mass index (BMI) of at least 35.0 kg/m², or
 - a BMI of 30.0 kg/m² to 34.9 kg/m² and meet the criteria for referral to specialist weight management services in NICE's clinical guideline on [obesity: identification, assessment and management](#).
- > The company provides semaglutide (Wegovy®) according to the commercial arrangement.

Use lower BMI thresholds (usually reduced by 2.5 kg/m²) for people from South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African or African-Caribbean family backgrounds.[1]

The NICE TA recommends that prescribers considering stopping semaglutide if less than 5% of the initial weight loss has been lost after 6 months of the maintenance dose.

The starting dose of Wegovy® is 0.25 mg **once weekly**, administered by subcutaneous injection. The dose is increased to a maintenance dose of 2.4mg **once weekly** over a 16 week period. Refer to [SPC](#) for dosage schedule.[2] Weekly doses higher than 2.4 mg are not recommended.

The Department of Health and Social Care have produced some public facing information on accessing semaglutide for weight loss: [Accessing Wegovy for weight loss: Everything you need to know](#).

Costing information

Based on the NICE Resource Impact Template for NICE TA875, the estimated cost of implementing this guidance is £70,000 per 100,000 population in 2023/24, rising to £175,000 per 100,000 population by 2027/28 when it is assumed that steady state has been reached. This is based on the NHS list price and will be less once the commercial arrangement discount is applied.

References

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Technology Appraisal 875; [Semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity](#) 08 March 2023, updated 04 September 2023. Accessed online 20 September 2023.
2. Novo Nordisk Limited. Summary of Product Characteristics, [Wegovy 0.25 mg, FlexTouch solution for injection in pre-filled pen](#), Last updated 06 Jul 2023. Accessed online 20 September 2023.

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.