

National GLP-1 (diabetic medication) shortage

Dear Patient,

As you may have become aware there is a shortage of some diabetic medications. These are the once weekly GLP-1 injections under the names of Semaglutide (Ozempic), Exanatide (Byetta), Liraglutide (Victoza) and Dulaglutide (Trulicity)

This is a national shortage and hence we have no control of this situation. There are national guidelines in place that we need to adhere to in order to try and keep the supply of these medications for the clinical situations where they need to be prioritised. Even in the highest priority groups the medication may still not be available. This situation is expected to last for most of 2024.

We are not allowed to change the dose that you are currently on and patients are **NOT** to double up on lower dose injections.

If you are aware of a pharmacy that is able to source your prescribed medication in your exact dose (and this is a different pharmacy to your normal one) then please let reception know and we can send one off prescriptions to that pharmacy.

Please do not ask pharmacy to send more than one month's worth of these medications as this is not allowed.

For those of you who are not able to get hold of your medication our team of pharmacists are currently working through the list of all our patients on these medications and will be contacting you individually. We have a considerable number of patients on these medications and so it may take up to 4 weeks to contact everyone.

Please do not contact reception unless you have not heard from the pharmacy team by the middle of February.

If you are also on insulin and are under the community diabetic team or hospital diabetic team then please contact your diabetic specialist nurse if you are not able to get your GLP-1 (once weekly) injections.

Thank you

Dr Murtaza Khanbhai
Watling Medical Centre