

POSITION STATEMENT

Wegovy® (semaglutide) for managing overweight and obesity (NICE TA 875)

Recommendation:

Wegovy® (semaglutide) has been recommended by NICE as an option for weight management, including weight loss and weight maintenance, alongside a reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity for a restricted cohort of adults.

It is appropriate to use semaglutide alongside lifestyle interventions that are provided in specialist weight management services (offered in the NHS for a limited time). This is because it is in keeping with the clinical trial, and there is no evidence of effectiveness if semaglutide is used as a single stand-alone treatment. Also, the marketing authorisation specifies use as an adjunct to a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity.

However, whilst LSCMMG is committed to implementing the NICE TA within the 3-month implementation period, it is estimated that NICE TA 875 will have a significant impact on system resources.

Prescribers in Lancashire and South Cumbria are asked to refrain from prescribing Wegovy® (semaglutide) for weight loss until clear commissioning and clinical pathways have been established – **interim RAG status 'Do not prescribe'**

Please note: Wegovy® is the only semaglutide preparation recommended for weight loss by NICE – Rybelsus® and Ozempic® should not be prescribed for weight loss – **RAG status 'Do not prescribe'**

Currently (April 2023) Wegovy® is not commercially available and there is still some uncertainty regarding the launch of Wegovy® (semaglutide) and availability of supply in the UK.

LSCMMG will provide further updates as they become available.

Background

NICE TA 875 recommends the following:

1. Wegovy® (semaglutide) is recommended 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:
 - a. 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
 - b. they have at least 1 weight-related comorbidity and:
 - i. a body mass index (BMI) of at least 35.0 kg/m², or
 - ii. a BMI of 30.0 kg/m² to 34.9 kg/m² and meet the criteria for referral to specialist weight management services.

Please note: 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.

2. Consider stopping semaglutide if less than 5% of the initial weight has been lost after 6 months of treatment.

References

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence , "Semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity [TA875]," NICE, Manchester, 2023 [updated 8th March 2023].

Version Control

Version Number	Date	Amendments Made	Author
1.0	April 2023	Approved	P. Tyldesley

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