

26/3/19

Dear Colleagues,

Following the NHS England's (NHSE) announcement of National arrangements for funding of relevant diabetes patients for Freestyle Libre (FSL) (7th March 2019 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/flash-glucose-monitoring-national-arrangements-funding.pdf>), the local formulary groups (BCAP/3Ts Swindon FWG/ICID SFT) have agreed to amend the status of Freestyle Libre to amber (specialist recommendation) instead of red. This means responsibility for prescribing Freestyle Libre sensors for current patients can now be passed to the patients GP practice. Some patients may still have some FP10HPs for FSL in their possession, which will be used before the patient changes to the primary care supply route from their GP.

The CCGs will also be writing to GPs, with some information about Freestyle Libre and the new arrangements this week, to hopefully make this as smooth a possible process.

The Freestyle Libre device is not prescribable on FP10, so please be aware that GPs cannot be asked to provide the devices, so these will still need to be provided by acute trusts to those patients that wish to use the device rather than the app.

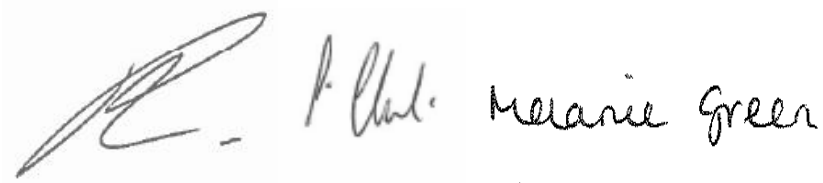
Please also be aware that for people that are currently self-funding FSL, they should only be assessed by acute trusts against NHSE criteria during *routine* appointments and so they should not receive appointments just to be assessed for suitability to use Freestyle Libre.

NHSE have stated that their FSL criteria will be equivalent to 20% of type 1 patients accessing FSL. CCGs will be monitoring patient numbers monthly and will also report quarterly figures to the joint diabetes working group(s) to allow us all to be aware of patient numbers versus the allocated budget during 19/20.

If you haven't previously dispensed any Freestyle Libre sensors, on the following pages there is some information about how to access the sensors which need to be ordered direct from Abbott.

Please contact your CCG Medicines Optimisation team if you have any questions or problems.

Yours Sincerely



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NHS Wiltshire CCG switchboard: 01380 728899

Further information for community pharmacies about FreeStyle Libre®

What is FreeStyle Libre®?

The FreeStyle Libre® flash glucose monitoring system is a device for the self-monitoring of glucose levels. Unlike traditional finger-prick devices (that measure the glucose level in the blood), Libre® measures the glucose level in the interstitial fluid, via a sensor that sits just under the skin. It can provide a near-continuous record, which is produced by the patient scanning the sensor with their reader-device, as and when required. Additional education and training is necessary for any healthcare professionals or patients who wish to use this system. Further information and videos can be found on the Abbott website at: <https://www.freestylelibre.co.uk/libre/help/tutorials.html>

Who is it for?

The device has been available to purchase direct from the company for a few years and a number of people with diabetes currently order the sensors online. They may also come to the pharmacy and order via that route. Initiation of the device is advised via specialist diabetes teams and GP practices should not initiate people onto this system. They will however continue prescribing in the community and therefore you will receive FP10s for the sensors.

What's on prescription?

The reader device is either purchased via online orders or may be provided via Abbott representatives direct to clinics – it is not available on FP10s. These devices are for long-term use and have associated warranties. The sensors last up to 14 days and can be ordered by prescription on the NHS if the patient is eligible as per the NHSE criteria. The PIP code for the FreeStyle Libre® sensor is 405-9028 – the pack contains a sensor, a sensor applicator and a wipe.

Safe disposal

Once used, the sensor needs to be disposed of appropriately in a sharps bin. The applicator and pack should go in a biohazard pack and the pack can go in general waste. Therefore, the patient may require access to sharps bins and biohazard bags, which they may order through the pharmacy. Patients may also wish to purchase additional items used to aid with sensor adhesion.

How to dispose of system components after use?

Puck/Sensor: Sharps bin
Applicator with cap on: Biohazard bag
Sensor packaging: General waste

Skin reactions and adhesion

Advice on sensor adhesion is provided here:
<https://www.freestylelibre.co.uk/libre/discover/applying-your-sensor.html>

Please be aware of the MHRA safety alert regarding FSL sensors that was published 29th January 2019 about skin reactions to the adhesive:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/alert-to-users-of-freestyle-libre-flash-glucose-monitoring-system-regarding-skin-reactions-to-sensor-adhesive>

How to order the sensors

Pharmacies can order sensors through the following link:
<https://www.freestylelibrepharmacyportal.co.uk/>

Upon the patients first visit, independents/dispensing practices will require registration; those in the large chains should be pre-registered and should have received login details from their respective head offices. Delivery is next day for orders placed before 5pm.

What if there is a problem with the sensor?

The company should be contacted directly by the patient and not the pharmacy, specialist centre or GP practice. The patient should contact the Abbott Customer Careline on 0800 170 1177 on the day that a problem with the FreeStyle Libre® system is identified, such as the sensor falling off. The patient should keep the displaced/faulty FreeStyle Libre® sensor and follow the instructions of the Abbott Customer Careline representative. Please note that a maximum of 3 replacement FreeStyle Libre® sensors can be issued per individual for those that fall off.

Further information from Abbott about the supply process can be found via the PSNC website here (2017): <https://psnc.org.uk/sunderland-lpc/wp-content/uploads/sites/89/2018/01/FSL-Reimbursement-FAQs-171017-Wholesaler-Pharmacy-FINAL.pdf>