

Dispensing Information: Community Pharmacies & Dispensing Practices for FreeStyle Libre® in Herefordshire from 1st April 2019

Key Information

1. Consideration of appropriateness for FlashGM can be undertaken at the patient's next annual clinical review (unless clinical circumstances indicate earlier review).
2. WVT Diabetes specialist team will be responsible for assessment of eligibility and initiation and hospital FP10 prescription supply of FlashGM sensors during the first 6 months (if appropriate).
3. Eligibility for continuation of FlashGM longer-term will be assessed by WVT at 4-6 months after initiation; with ongoing prescribing responsibility transferring to primary care only at this time.
4. Patients using FlashGM will subsequently be managed jointly between primary and secondary care in line with existing local arrangements for ongoing management for Type 1 patients.
5. Patients who have self-funded FlashGM should be managed in the same way but only where their clinical history suggests that they would have satisfied one or more of the national clinical criteria prior to commencing FlashGM.

What is Flash Glucose Monitoring i.e. FreeStyle Libre®?

The FreeStyle Libre® is a FlashGM system for 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 (can use some phones) when required. Web based training for patients and HCPs on the system is available via Abbott at:

<https://www.freestylelibre.co.uk/libre/help/tutorials.html>

How suppliers can order FreeStyle Libre® sensors

Pharmacies/ dispensing practices can only order via a portal which requires registration. Pharmacy chains may be pre-registered with login details available from head offices. Delivery is next day for orders placed before 5pm. <https://www.freestylelibrepharmacyportal.co.uk/>

How patients can access NHS prescription supplies

The system sensors will be available on prescription in Herefordshire from 1st April 2019 subject to NHS criteria. Consideration of appropriateness for FlashGM will be undertaken at the patient's next Specialist Diabetes Team annual clinical review (unless clinical circumstances indicate earlier review). Prescription of FlashGM will be via hospital prescription (FP10HPs) for the first 6 months assessment period and then transfer to primary care prescription longer term, if agreed to continue. All NHS FlashGM sensor prescription FP10HP supplies will be via community pharmacy or dispensing practices; patients will be advised that FlashGM are not stock items and may take a few days for supply so need to order in advance. Dispensing practices must ensure the hospital prescription is sent to NHSBSA for reimbursement – do not transfer to GP FP10.

GP initiated prescriptions are not expected for many months until the first patients reviewed complete their FlashGM assessment successfully. Patients currently self funding FlashGM direct from Abbott will be subject to local specialist assessment and will not necessarily be eligible for NHS funding. Community pharmacists identifying inappropriate primary care prescribing can feed this back to GP practices in the usual way and also via the community pharmacy intervention scheme as a "Red" drug.

What's on prescription?

The PIP code for the FreeStyle Libre® sensor is 405-9028 – one pack contains: a sensor that lasts for 14 days, a sensor applicator and a wipe. Therefore prescriptions should detail 2 packs to last one month or 4 packs for 2 months. Prescriptions should be for no more than 2 months' supply i.e. no more than 4 sensors.

NHS prescriptions must not be issued to replace faulty sensors which have warranties. Used sensors and applicators must be disposed of in a sharps bin but the pack can go in general waste. Diabetes patients will already have access to sharps bins supplied on prescription. The reader device is not available on FP10 and is provided via Abbott to patients from clinics; alternatively patients can use some mobile phones as a reader.

What if there is a problem with the sensor?

Patients must contact the Abbott Customer Careline on 0800 170 1177 on the day the problem occurs such as the sensor falling off. The patient should keep the displaced/faulty sensor and follow instructions from the Abbott Customer representative. Please note that a maximum of 3 replacement FreeStyle Libre® sensors can be issued per individual for those that fall off.