

DORSET MEDICINES ADVISORY GROUP

COMMISSIONING STATEMENT ON THE USE OF FREESTYLE LIBRE® SENSORS

SUMMARY

The NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group does not commission or recommend the use of FreeStyle Libre® sensors for patients with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes.

BACKGROUND

FreeStyle Libre® is a flash glucose monitoring system which monitors glucose levels using interstitial fluid levels rather than capillary blood glucose from finger prick testing.

- It consists of a handheld reader and a sensor, which is sited on the back of the arm. When the reader unit is passed over the sensor, the reader shows a reading based on interstitial fluid glucose levels. The sensor lasts for up to 14 days and then needs to be replaced.
- The reader can show a trace for the last eight hours and displays an arrow showing the direction the glucose reading is heading. Flash glucose monitoring is not the same as continuous glucose monitoring (CGM).
- A finger-prick test using a blood glucose meter is still required during times of rapidly changing glucose levels when interstitial fluid glucose levels may not accurately reflect blood glucose levels (i.e. acute illness such as Influenza, diarrhoea and vomiting), if hypoglycaemia or impending hypoglycaemia is reported, or the symptoms do not match the system readings.
- FreeStyle Libre® users will still need to perform finger-prick blood tests prior to and during driving to meet current DVLA requirements, as FreeStyle Libre®, like CGM, measures interstitial fluid levels and not capillary blood glucose levels.

RELEVANT NICE GUIDANCE

NICE MedTech Innovation Briefing
<https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/mib110>

“A key uncertainty around the evidence is that the randomised controlled trial of people with type 1 diabetes included only adults whose diabetes was well controlled.
The resource impact is uncertain, and depends upon the extent to which improved glucose control through the adoption of FreeStyle Libre® translates into fewer complications, reduced emergency admissions and less use of glucose test strips.”

FORMULARY STATUS

Non-formulary

PBR STATUS

Inclusive of tariff

COMMISSIONING IMPLICATIONS

This treatment does not represent a cost-effective treatment option for the NHS.

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RELEVANT CLINICAL DELIVERY GROUP	N/A
PATIENT PATHWAY IMPLICATIONS	There is a formulary for blood glucose testing strips for patients with Type 2 diabetes that has just been expanded and updated. Patients with Type 1 diabetes are not restricted to this Formulary.
SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT FORMULARY STATUS	<p>There is limited data to confirm that use of FreeStyle Libre® will result in better controlled diabetes, an improvement in patient oriented outcomes such as a reduction in complications due to poorly controlled diabetes, hospitalisation rates or ambulance/GP call out rates, improvement in overall long-term diabetes control or quality of life. More data is also required to confirm effectiveness of this technology in less well controlled diabetes.</p> <p>There is limited data to support the routine use in children and young people.</p>
ASSESSMENT OF COST IMPLICATIONS	<p>Current prevalence data suggests that 432 patients per 100,000 population have type 1 diabetes. If all eligible patients were switched to FreeStyle Libre® from current standard practice, the additional investment required is likely to be between £126k and £376k per 100,000 population (based on current retail price), excluding first year set up costs.</p> <p>In Dorset, this could amount to up to £2.86 million. No studies on the cost-effectiveness of FreeStyle Libre® in the UK have been identified</p>
REFERENCES	<p>https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/mib110</p> <p>https://westsexccg.nhs.uk/your-health/medicines-optimisation/clinical-prescribing-guidance/6-endocrine-system/3450-freestyle-libre-glucose-monitoring-system/file</p>
DATE	November 2017
REVIEW DATE	November 2018 or before, in light of new information, evidence or statutory guidance from NICE or other NHS bodies.