**Medicines Management Enhanced Service Scheme 2023-24**

**Diabetes Section – additional implementation guidance and advice**

**Blood Glucose Test Strips (Indicator A1)**

A clinically led national assessment was undertaken to better understand the many products available and how they meet the needs of all people living with diabetes. The aim was to achieve equitable access to an aligned set of products across primary and secondary care, that satisfy minimum quality standards, and offer best use of NHS resources. Resultant [national commissioning guidance](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/commissioning-recommendations-blood-glucose-and-ketone-meters-testing-strips-and-lancets/?mc_cid=00879be9aa&mc_eid=055a9e315d) published in April 2023. An HNY working group of experts used this as the starting point for a final set of [ICS formulary guidance (LINK)](https://humberandnorthyorkshire.org.uk/imoc/clinical-guidance-and-pathways/) for application across Humber and North Yorkshire, narrowing down these formulary options, while ensuring retention of options for those that have more specific product needs. It is recognised that the majority of patients can be maintained on lower cost products below £6.00 for 50 test strips (NHS Drug Tariff prices), with many of the products with additional functionality also falling below this threshold.

The searches to help to identify usage of products of higher cost, although it is recognised that some of this usage may be appropriate and in line with national and ICS formulary, can be found in Appendix 1 instructions.

BGTS are compatible with specific meters, and practices are encouraged to liaise with manufacturers and DSNs regards supplies of meters and their use in the community.

While it is the choice of test strips that will influence practices' performance on this indicator, frequency of use of BGTS is also an important element for clinicians to consider in helping ensure most appropriate use of NHS resources. BGTS can often be over-ordered/supplied, wasted and over- and under-used, and national guidance on their frequency of use should be followed.

Ketone test strips are also included in the ICS formulary guidance but are not part of the Medicines Management Enhanced Scheme. Meters have also been selected that can measure both blood sugar and ketone levels and offer value for money for the NHS for both strips when blood sugar and ketone levels are required.

**Insulin Pen-needles** **(Indicator A2)**

With significant competition in this topic from manufacturers, previous list price thresholds for insulin pen needles have been reduced. It is recognised that the majority of patients can be maintained on lower cost products below £4.00 for 100 pen needles (NHS Drug Tariff prices)

The following searches can be run in practice systems to help identify usage of products of higher cost i.e. £4.00/100 pen needles or higher.

The searches to help to identify usage of products of higher cost can be found in Appendix 1 instructions.

DSN colleagues in the ICS have tested 'Insupen Original' and provided very positive feedback on their suitability. Their net ingredient cost (NIC) is £2.49/100, but please ensure the correct products are selected as many names are similar and some manufacturers have more than one range with quite differing prices. There are also different gauge sizes and lengths.

**Lancets (Indicator A3)**

The national commissioning guidance referenced above (in BGTS section) included a review of lancets for type 1 and type 2 diabetics. On review of the NY&Y data, a majority of practices already have over 90% of their insulin lancets costing below £3.00/100.

The searches to help to identify usage of products of higher cost can be found in Appendix 1 instructions.

**Insulin Pens: disposable Vs reusable (Indicator A4)**

To improve sustainability, the ICB is promoting the use of cartridges rather than disposable pens in appropriate patients. It is recognised that much of the product selection is influenced by diabetes specialist nurses, but it is hoped that practices will help influence and change practice in appropriate patients considered suitable for use of re-usable insulin pens. Various influencing factors suggest that movement in this specific topic will be gradual, so purposefully this indicator has been allocated few points and is not one of the qualifying indicators that has to be achieved.

The following advice from one of our local Diabetes Specialist Nurses will be invaluable in helping practices be selective in who is and isn't switched to re-usable insulin pens. Some indications where a prefilled disposable pen is the more appropriate option:

1. Higher strength insulins where pen fill cartridges are not available.
2. Patients under the care of Community / District nurses - the national recommendation is to manage these patients on disposable pens.
3. Patients with dexterity issues – YSNHSFT typically uses Innolet and Flextouch while HUTHT typically uses Innolet and Toujeo Solostar for these patients.
4. Patients who live in assisted living, where carers are trained by DSNs to administer the insulin against a competency package. And if there is more than one resident on insulin, the DSNs recommend disposable pens to reduce the risk of insulin cartridges being put into incorrect pens.
5. Patient choice, where some patients continue to prefer the disposable pens.

Also to note, there is currently a supply chain shortage of Tresiba FlexTouch 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled disposable pens, which is expected to last to at least January next year. It may be helpful to consider patients who have been receiving this product as the first group to review for changing from disposable pens. Information can be found at [https://www.sps.nhs.uk/shortages/shortage-of-tresiba-insulin-degludec-flextouch-100units-ml-solution-for-injection-3ml-pre-filled-pens/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sps.nhs.uk%2Fshortages%2Fshortage-of-tresiba-insulin-degludec-flextouch-100units-ml-solution-for-injection-3ml-pre-filled-pens%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cken.latta%40nhs.net%7C15ef5faf4bf34b0d6c1608dbb9178bb9%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638307282994351838%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=51ljt0mDlBMujPvWT0PvObEiUxGrdSDIpy0LZRpnZZQ%3D&reserved=0)

The searches to help to identify usage of products of higher cost can be found in Appendix 1 instructions.

**Appendix 1 – Patient searches**

**For North Yorkshire and York**

**North Yorkshire Place – SystmOne and Emis Web**

 

**Vale of York Place – SystmOne and Emis Web**

 

**For Humber – East Riding of Yorkshire Place, Hull Place, North East Lincolnshire Place and North Lincolnshire Place**

SystmOne



Emis Web



Emis Web attachment - search

