

Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) use for weight loss FAQs for BNSSG Healthcare Professionals

Following [NICE's announcement on tirzepatide](#) in December 2024 and the publication of NICE guideline [NG246: Overweight and obesity management](#) in January 2025 we are working with BNSSG system partners to follow guidance from NICE and NHS England to make tirzepatide available for weight management. We await clarity from NHS England on funding arrangements, patient eligibility criteria and prioritisation for this nationally phased rollout.

We ask prescribers NOT to start tirzepatide for weight loss while this work continues.

We hope the following FAQs for BNSSG HCPs are helpful. Separate FAQs for patients [here](#).

1. What is changing in the management of obesity as a result of NICE's announcement?

- People in England over the age of 18 who are living with obesity and another weight-related health issue will be able to access tirzepatide through specialist weight management services (SWMS) from April 1st 2025.
- We are additionally required to create new primary care weight management pathways, incorporating wraparound care with access expected to begin at the end of June 2025.
- Tirzepatide is currently prescribed for treating type 2 diabetes (see [NICE TA924 Tirzepatide for treating type 2 diabetes](#)) but will now also be available for weight loss.

2. Who can access tirzepatide?

- Tirzepatide is recommended by NICE as an option for people living with obesity who have a body mass index (BMI) of 35 or over and a weight related health problem; or a BMI of 32.5 and one weight-related health problem for people from South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African or African-Caribbean ethnic backgrounds, as they are at a higher risk of medical problems at a lower BMI.
- Tirzepatide can only be prescribed alongside 'wraparound care'; programmes which support people to lose weight and live healthier lives by making changes to their diet and physical activity. As NHS England develops the plans for national rollout, it will provide more details of the wraparound support offer for patients. This may include programmes delivered digitally and/or in person.

- Patients cannot be prescribed tirzepatide if they do not wish to undertake the wraparound care support.

3. Can my patients access tirzepatide straight away?

- Introducing this new treatment to NICE's estimated 3.4 million eligible patients requires service redesign. Due to the significant impact this will have on primary care and NHS budget, NICE approved NHS England's funding variation request for a [phased roll out over 12 years](#) to help manage demand on existing healthcare services.
- Tirzepatide will not immediately be accessible to everyone who wishes to use it. It will initially be prioritised to those facing the most significant weight-related comorbidities, starting on 1st April 2025 via SWMS. It will then be made available, from the end of June, to prioritised cohorts in primary care settings during an initial phased implementation period, which reflects the available capacity in primary care. Information on prioritisation is now available in the [Interim Commissioning Guidance](#) published by NHS England on 27th March 2025.
- Tirzepatide might not be suitable for everyone and not everyone who meets the eligibility criteria will want to use it to support their weight loss. An HCP will discuss the most appropriate care and support, based on individual patient's need. This could include behavioural support programmes, medical options including prescribing or bariatric surgery.

4. What if my patient is already receiving tirzepatide treatment or is already on an NHS SWMS waiting list?

- You can continue prescribing tirzepatide to manage diabetes in line with [NICE TA924](#).
- Once there is clarity over primary care delivery models, HCPs will determine if it is appropriate for a patient on an NHS SWMS waiting list to receive tirzepatide in a different care setting (for example, through primary care).
- If patients are using tirzepatide they have acquired privately, they may be able to access the medication through an NHS prescription if they meet the NICE and NHS qualifying criteria. More information about this will be made available soon.

5. Is there a patient cost to being prescribed tirzepatide?

- Normal prescription charges will apply unless patients are entitled to free NHS prescriptions (for example, because they have a medical exemption certificate).

6. What is known about funding and commissioning arrangements?

- Confirmation of the reimbursement for tirzepatide for managing obesity and further associated management costs have now been outlined by NHS England. BNSSG ICB is working with system partners to establish the best use of this financial allocation in redeveloping local weight management services.