



Patient Information Leaflet – Stock Shortages – Injectable and Oral Glucagon-like peptide receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) (Dulaglutide, Exenatide, Semaglutide, Liraglutide, Lixisenatide)

Why have I been sent this leaflet?

The NHS is currently facing national supply issues with GLP-1 RAs and our records show that you are taking a GLP-1 RA for type 2 diabetes. GLP-1 medications include: Dulaglutide (Trulicity®), Exenatide (Byetta® or Bydureon®), Semaglutide (Ozempic® or Rybelsus®), Liraglutide (Victoza®), Lixisenatide (Lyxumia®)

Why are there drug shortages?

There is an increased demand and not enough supply for these drugs. This is a national issue across community pharmacies, GP practices and hospitals.

When will these shortages be resolved?

Supply is not expected to return until at least the middle of 2024 but these dates are subject to change. Until this time supplies are also expected to be variable with no guarantee of continued supply with any of these medications.

What should I do during this time with my diabetes medications?

You should continue taking all your diabetes medication as normal, including your GLP-1 RA if you have a supply. If you have run out of your GLP-1 RA and are unable to get further supplies it is important to discuss this with your healthcare professional. It is not possible to issue prescriptions early or with larger quantities of GLP-1 RA to help protect supplies for patients.

Will I need a review for my diabetes?

You may need an earlier review for your diabetes. Healthcare professionals are aware of the supply issues and it has been recommended that people who may be most at risk should be prioritised. As a result, you may have to wait a little longer to be reviewed. In the meantime, we may ask that you attend for a monitoring blood test sooner than planned.

Will my diabetes treatment need to change?

Your diabetes treatment may need to be changed in view of the shortage however a review with a healthcare professional will take all of your needs into consideration. A member of the team will contact you if this is necessary and discuss options. If you have to stop your GLP-1 RA it will not be possible to change to a different GLP-1 RA or a different dose as the supply issue is affecting all GLP-1 RAs. It is also not recommended to take GLP-1 RAs sporadically as this may increase the risk of you experiencing side effects and may lead to unstable blood glucose.

Where can I get further information about this?

You may find the [FAQs section GLP-1 RA Shortages](#) of the Diabetes UK website helpful.

What do I do if I feel unwell?

If you feel unwell with symptoms of high blood glucose, e.g., feeling very thirsty, peeing a lot, feeling weak or tired, blurred vision or losing weight, please seek a GP appointment at the earliest opportunity. Please call 111 for help if you think you have high blood glucose levels and: you're feeling sick; you're being sick or have stomach pain; you're breathing more quickly than usual; your heart is beating faster than usual; you feel drowsy or are struggling to stay awake; your breath has a fruity smell (like pear drop sweets); you feel confused or have difficulty concentrating; or you have a high level of ketones in your blood or pee. These could be signs you are becoming very unwell.