

13 July 2018

POSITION STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE PRESCRIPTION OF FREESTYLE LIBRE IN NHS GRAMPIAN

Flash Glucose Monitoring (Flash GM) is a new technology that enables people with diabetes to check their glucose levels reducing the need to prick their fingers and draw blood (the traditional way to measure blood glucose).

A flash GM device, FreeStyle Libre, came to market last year and was included on the drug tariff on 1st November 2017. Inclusion on the drug tariff provides the mechanism through which community pharmacists and dispensing doctor practices can be paid for the products they supply in response to prescriptions. Inclusion does not indicate acceptance to local formulary or a recommendation for use to local prescribers.

Boards across the North of Scotland have been waiting to see the outcome of the assessment of FreeStyle Libre by the Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG), to help inform them on the place of FreeStyle Libre in the treatment of local patients. SHTG has recently published its assessment and advice regarding the use of FreeStyle Libre in Scotland. Boards across the North of Scotland are now considering this advice in order to inform how this device can be implemented to best effect for local patients with diabetes.

Boards across the North of Scotland will formalise their plans for introducing FreeStyle Libre over the next sixty days. This timeline allows NHS Boards to ensure that plans for introduction are peer reviewed and is in line with the timelines we adhere to when considering advice regarding medicines. Until that position is developed and agreed, existing approved blood glucose monitoring will continue to be available to meet the clinical needs of diabetic patients.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Pflieger', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Pflieger
Director of Pharmacy
NHS Grampian