

Freestyle Libre – Interim BLACK (no prescribing) Classification:

The Freestyle Libre is a flash intermittent glucose monitoring system which allows people to check interstitial glucose levels and trends without regularly performing capillary (fingerprick) testing. A sensor, with a microfilament sited in the skin is placed on the back of the arm and the reader, when passed over the sensor, displays interstitial glucose levels. There are limitations to the system e.g. not appropriate for DVLA regulations or people who have loss of hypoglycaemia awareness, delayed indication of true blood glucose levels and it does not provide alerts. The system does not fully replace traditional capillary testing, and requires user commitment and education. Local specialists have suggested a limited cohort of patients for whom this system is appropriate.

There are reports that GPs have received requests to prescribe Freestyle Libre, from healthcare providers, from patients who may have purchased privately and from patients anticipating the addition of the system to the November Drug Tariff. Freestyle Libre is not approved by the Department of Health to prescribe on FP10 until November 1st 2017. Oxfordshire Area Prescribing Committee (APCO) has not approved the system for local prescribing. An application has not been received for this to add to the local formulary. An interim decision has been made to classify Freestyle Libre and sensors as BLACK (no prescribing) until APCO has considered it fully.

ACTION for GPs receiving prescribing requests

- From NHS Trusts: kindly request the trust to carry on the supply until this request comes to the Area Prescribing Committee for discussion for inclusion onto our local formulary.
- From patients currently privately funding the product: please refer to the local policy; [Managing the boundaries of NHS and privately funded healthcare](#). This policy states that private patients wishing their treatment to be managed on the NHS have to follow the same pathway as NHS patients.
- From new patients anticipating Drug Tariff inclusion November: advise that Freestyle Libre is not currently approved for primary care prescribing in Oxfordshire and will not be prescribed on FP10 as currently classified as BLACK on the OCCG formulary.

Further queries to OCCG.medicines@nhs.net .