**Information Leaflet: Stock Shortages of**

**Injectable and Oral GLP-1 Analogues**

# This leaflet is designed for people taking a GLP-1 analogue for Type 2 diabetes.

## Why have I been sent this leaflet?

You will be affected if you are taking a GLP-1 analogue for type 2 diabetes.

GLP-1 analogues include: Dulaglutide (Trulicity®), Exenatide (Byetta® or Bydureon®), Semaglutide (Ozempic® or Rybelsus®), Liraglutide (Victoza®), Lixisenatide (Lyxumia®).

Unfortunately, there are widespread national stock shortages with all these agents.

## Why are there drug shortages?

Shortages are due to increased demand for these drugs. ***This has nothing to do with your chemist, GP practice or Diabetes Specialist Service. Please be assured that your usual diabetes service will know about this and have guidance to help you manage your diabetes well during this shortage in supply.***

## When will these shortages be resolved?

Supply is not expected to return to normal until at least the middle of 2024 but these dates are subject to change.

## What should you do during this time with your diabetes medication?

You should continue taking all your diabetes medication as normal, including your GLP-1 analogue if you still have, or can continue to get your supply. Please inform your practice if you cannot get supplies.

## Will I need a review for my diabetes?

You may need an earlier review for your diabetes. We will do our best to see you as soon as we can, but there are many people on this treatment who need to be reviewed. This should not stop you seeking advice sooner if your diabetes control is getting worse quickly (See below). We may ask for a monitoring blood test sooner than planned.

## Will my diabetes treatment need to change?

A change of treatment may be needed. This will be discussed during your review appointment.

## What else can I do to keep my diabetes control stable?

The NHS Wales advice is to refer people affected by this change to structured education programmes. These can be accessed online or in face-to-face group sessions. They are highly effective and strongly recommended. These will help you to make positive changes to manage your diabetes well.

## What do I do if I feel unwell? Whether you are affected by the shortage of this medication or not. Please follow this guidance:

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 an appointment with your GP surgery at the earliest opportunity. Please call 111 for help if you think you have high blood glucose and; you’re feeling sick, being sick or have stomach pain, you’re breathing more quickly than usual or 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, you have a high level of ketones in your blood or pee. These could be signs you are becoming very unwell.