

To:
GPs and Community Pharmacists

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Dear Colleague

Changeover to FreeStyle Libre 2[®] Sensors

FreeStyle Libre 1[®], a flash glucose monitoring (FGM) system which can be used to aid the management of diabetes, has been available since late 2017. [A pathway was established for the Managed Access of FreeStyle Libre[®]](#) in N.Ireland in December 2017. Using this pathway, patients with Type 1 diabetes are assessed in secondary care and if they are eligible for the Freestyle Libre[®] system, correspondence is issued to their GP to request that Freestyle Libre[®] sensors are prescribed in primary care.

As you may be aware, a new version of the sensor, FreeStyle Libre 2[®], has recently been released by the manufacturers and has been available on the Northern Ireland Drug Tariff from 1st November 2020. As the new Freestyle Libre 2[®] system provides improved accuracy of glucose readings and offers additional functionality, it is proposed that that all patients currently prescribed the Freestyle Libre 1[®] sensors will be changed to the new Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensor.

A comparison table outlining some of the main differences between Freestyle Libre 1[®] and Freestyle Libre 2[®] systems is included in Appendix A.

Existing patients, including children, currently prescribed FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors will require their prescription to be changed.

Patients have been encouraged not to contact their GP practices to ask to be switched to FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors. Patients will be notified when their practice has amended their prescription.

Actions for GP Practices:

- GP practices should consider nominating a suitable staff member to manage the switch of patients currently prescribed FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors to the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors.
- GP practices should inform their local community pharmacists of their intention to complete the switch and work collaboratively to ensure that stock levels of the FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors can be exhausted, while also providing adequate time for community pharmacists to order stock of the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors.
- On an agreed date, the appointed GP practice staff member should search for patients on their clinical system, who are currently prescribed FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors. Prescriptions for the FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensor should be stopped and a new prescription for FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensor should be added to the patient's record.
 - Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensors are already on the drug dictionary of both the Vision and Merlok GP clinical systems. They have been added to Emis Web January 2021 update.
 - Practices using the EMIS web GP Clinical system should first check that until Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensors are listed on their drug dictionary before proceeding.
- GP practices are reminded of previous HSCB guidance that a **maximum of 2 sensors per month should be prescribed.**
- A patient template letter is available in Appendix B which can be amended as required. It is recommended that a letter and a patient information leaflet (Appendix C) should be printed and attached to all new prescriptions for Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensors.

Actions for community pharmacies:

- FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors can be ordered in the same way as FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors, using the portal:
<https://www.freestylelibrepharmacyportal.co.uk/>
- FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors cannot be used to fill a prescription for FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors and vice versa.

Patient information

- Patients do not require additional training on the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] system, but they can access support via the manufacturer's website or by contacting them by phone, should it be necessary (see further details below).
- If patients are unsure of how to set the correct alarm range on the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] system, they can complete the alarms module on Freestyle Academy (<https://progress.freestylediabetes.co.uk/>) and/or they should contact a member of their diabetes specialist team to discuss.
This is particularly important for children.
- The patient letter and information leaflet (Appendix B and C) should be attached to the new prescription for Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensor issued by the GP practice. **Community pharmacists should ensure that BOTH the letter and information leaflet are given to the patient with their new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensor.**
- Where possible when patients collect their prescription they should be advised about changes required to their reader or app, using the information provided in the patient information leaflet (Appendix C)
- To avoid wastage, patients will be encouraged to use up all existing stocks of FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors, prior to beginning to use the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors.

Further patient information is also available from the manufacturer at www.FreeStyleDiabetes.co.uk or by calling 0800 170 1177 (Mon-Fri 08:00 – 20:00, Sat 09:00 – 17:00 excl. bank holidays).

If you have any queries in relation to this change please do not hesitate to contact your HSCB Pharmacy Adviser.

Yours sincerely



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Appendix A: FreeStyle Libre Comparison Table

	FreeStyle Libre 1[®]	FreeStyle Libre 2[®]
Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors were added to the N.Ireland Drug Tariff on 1st November 2017. ➤ Eligible patients have been prescribed FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors since early December 2017, when the pathway was established. ➤ FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors will continue to be available as normal during this transition period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors were added to the N.Ireland Drug Tariff on 1st November 2020. ➤ Patients currently prescribed FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors will be switched in primary care to FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors. ➤ FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors are available to order from the manufacturer https://www.freestylelibrepharmacyportal.co.uk/ ➤ See pathway section of table below for new patients commenced on FreeStyle Libre 2[®] system.
Functionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FreeStyle Libre 1[®] is a flash glucose monitoring (FGM) system which measures glucose levels, using interstitial fluid levels rather than capillary blood glucose from finger prick testing. ➤ It consists of a handheld reader and a sensor, which is sited on the back of the upper arm. When the reader unit is passed over the sensor, the reader shows a reading based on interstitial fluid glucose levels. The sensor lasts for up to 14 days and then needs to be replaced. ➤ The reader can show a trace for the last 8 hours and displays an arrow showing the direction the glucose reading is heading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The FreeStyle Libre 2[®] system operates in exactly the same way as the FreeStyle Libre 1[®] system. ➤ It has additional and optional alarm functions e.g. to alert for hypoglycaemia or hyperglycaemia. ➤ FreeStyle Libre 2[®] has an algorithm update, improving accuracy. ➤ This means no confirmatory finger pricks required for insulin dosing – even when glucose is low, falling, or rapidly changing. (Finger pricks are required if glucose readings and alarms do not match symptoms or expectations)
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors are the same price as FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FreeStyle Libre 1[®] sensors are the same price as FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors.

	FreeStyle Libre 1[®]	FreeStyle Libre 2[®]
Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The FreeStyle Libre 1[®] reader is not available on prescription but is supplied direct from the manufacturer. ➤ Patients can only use the Freestyle Libre 1[®] reader to scan the Freestyle Libre 1[®] sensors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The FreeStyle Libre 2[®] reader is not available on prescription but is supplied direct from the manufacturer. ➤ Patients who wish to use a reader device to scan will require a new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] reader, to use with the FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensor. ➤ Patients who use a reader device to scan their sensor should order their new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] reader from the manufacturer AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ➤ Patients can only use the Freestyle Libre2[®] reader to scan the Freestyle Libre 2[®] sensors.
Librelink app	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Some patients, rather than using the reader device, use a FreeStyle LibreLink app on their smart phone to scan the sensor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Patients can continue to use their app to scan FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors. ➤ Patients do not need to download a new app. ➤ The app will automatically update to the latest version (2.5) to enable additional functionality of the FreeStyle Libre 2[®] system.
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There has been no change to the current FreeStyle Libre pathway. Only eligible patients with Type 1 diabetes can be initiated on the FreeStyle Libre system by secondary care clinicians. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ From January 2021, NEW patients, who are eligible under the current pathway to commence using FreeStyle Libre[®] will be initiated on the new FreeStyle Libre 2[®] system. ➤ These patients will be provided with training by Trusts and they will also be provided with the FreeStyle Libre 2[®] reader ➤ As before, GPs will be written to by secondary care clinicians to advise that their patient has been commenced on the system and to request for their FreeStyle Libre 2[®] sensors to be prescribed in primary care.

Appendix B: Template letter for patients

*{Insert GP Practice
name and address}
{Insert date}*

Dear Patient,

Re: Moving from FreeStyle Libre system to FreeStyle Libre 2 system

You are currently using the 'FreeStyle Libre system' to monitor your glucose levels. and we have been prescribing Freestyle Libre 1 sensors for you every month. A new and more advanced 'FreeStyle Libre 2 system' is now available.

What is the difference between the Freestyle Libre 1 system and the FreeStyle Libre 2 system?

The FreeStyle Libre 2 system is very similar to FreeStyle Libre 1 system, but:

- It has additional and optional alarm functions. There are three alarms functions for those who need them; a low glucose alarm, a high glucose alarm and a signal loss alarm.
- It has improved accuracy, particularly in the low glucose range. This means no confirmatory finger pricks are required for insulin dosing even when glucose is low, falling, or rapidly changing.
(Finger pricks are however required if glucose readings and alarms do not match symptoms or expectations.)

To enable you to benefit from this new system, **we have changed your prescription from Freestyle Libre 1 sensors to Freestyle Libre 2 sensors.** (To avoid wastage please use up any Freestyle Libre 1 sensors you already have before starting to use the new Freestyle Libre 2 sensors).

What do you need to do?

Step 1: Please follow the guidance in the attached patient information leaflet

- If you use a phone to scan, your LibreLink App will automatically be updated.
- If you use a reader to scan, **you MUST upgrade your reader to the new Freestyle Libre 2 reader.**

Order on line at www.freestylelibre.co.uk/replacement OR call Abbott customer service on 0800 170 1177.

IMPORTANT:

- You can only use the Freestyle Libre 2 reader to scan Freestyle Libre 2 sensors.
- You can only use the Freestyle Libre 1 reader to scan Freestyle Libre 1 sensors.
- If necessary, whilst awaiting the new reader, you can use finger pricking to monitor your blood glucose.

If you are unsure of how to set the correct alarm range on the new system, please complete the alarms module on Freestyle Academy (<https://progress.freestylediabetes.co.uk/>) and/or contact a member of your diabetes specialist team to discuss. This is particularly important for children.

Step 2: Connect with your Diabetes Specialist Team on LibreView

If you are not already sharing your glucose data with your diabetes specialist team via LibreView, it is important you do this so they can help you manage your glucose readings remotely.

To do this you will need to know your Practice (*hospital*) ID code. You can find your Practice ID code in the table below. Look for the hospital where you normally attend for your diabetes appointments and check for the corresponding Practice ID code.

Hospital	Practice ID Code
Mater	Materbelfast
Belfast City	bchdiabetes
RVH	RVHDiabetes
RVH Paediatric	rbhscdiabetes
Antrim Paediatric	AntrimPaeds
Antrim Community	JPCF2020
Whiteabbey	Antrim12#
Causeway	causewaydiab
Causeway Paediatric	Causeway
Mid Ulster	mid ulster
Downe Hospital	downehospital
Ulster	SETDIABETES
Ulster Paediatric	31-24181
Lagan Valley	Laganvalley
Southern Trust	10813216
Altnagelvin	Diabeteswest
Altnagelvin Paediatric	ALTDIABETES
Omagh	Omaghdiab
SWAH	SWAH Libre
SWAH Paediatric	SWAHdiabetes

If you normally use a phone to scan your sensor:

- Open *FreeStyle LibreLink App*
- Click on 'Menu'
- Click on 'Connected Apps'
- Click on 'LibreView (Manage)'
- Click on 'Connect to a Practice'
- Enter your unique **Practice ID code** (exactly as shown in the table above)

If you use your FreeStyle Libre 2 reader to scan your sensor:

- Visit www.LibreView.com to sign up and follow the instructions on screen.

If you have any queries, please contact {*insert name of person in GP practice to contact*} or please discuss with your Community Pharmacist or a member of your diabetes specialist team.

Moving to the FreeStyle Libre 2 system is easy.

Follow the guidance below.

**YOUR PRESCRIPTION HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM
FREESTYLE LIBRE 1 SENSORS to FREESTYLE LIBRE 2 SENSORS.
Follow the steps below to begin using the new Freestyle Libre 2 system**

**CHOOSE WHICH DEVICE YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE
ALARMS ON?¹**

PHONE



YOU'RE READY TO GO!
Using the FreeStyle LibreLink app, you can start scanning FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors straight away²
Please check that their FreeStyle LibreLink app version is 2.5 or above. See compatibility guide for details.



READER



REQUEST A READER
Go to the Reader Replacement Portal and complete the online request form
FreeStyleLibre.co.uk/replacement

REQUEST VALIDATION

- Enter your current FreeStyle Libre reader serial number
- No requirement to send the current reader back

DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO YOU
A replacement reader is delivered directly to you as the FreeStyle Libre user

Images are for illustrative purposes only. Not actual patient data.

1. Patients choose which device they want to receive alarms: FreeStyle Libre 2 reader or FreeStyle LibreLink app. They must start their FreeStyle Libre 2 sensor with that selected device. Once the patient scans their FreeStyle Libre 2 sensor with that device, they can receive alarms only on that device. 2. The FreeStyle LibreLink app is only compatible with certain mobile devices and operating systems. Please check the website for more information about device compatibility before using the app. Use of FreeStyle LibreLink requires registration with LibreView.

NOTE: If you are currently using your Freestyle Libre 1 reader to scan your Freestyle Libre sensor, you need to order your free upgraded reader from Abbott AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Order on line at: www.freestylelibre.co.uk/replacement OR call customer services on 0800 170 1177. **IMPORTANT:**

- You can only use the Freestyle Libre 2 reader to scan Freestyle Libre 2 sensors.
- You can only use the Freestyle Libre 1 reader to scan Freestyle Libre 1 sensors.