

To:  
Trusts Chief Executives  
(for onward cascade as per the  
attached distribution list)  
GPs  
Practice Based Pharmacists

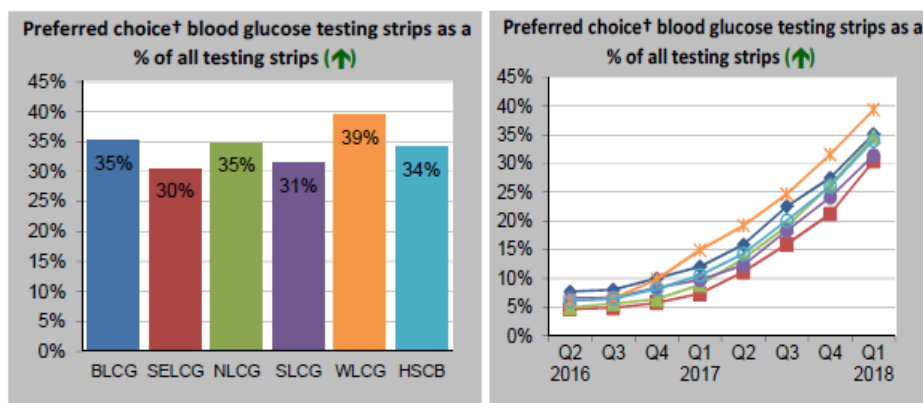
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[www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

10<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Dear Colleague,

## HSCB GLUCOMETER GUIDELINE FOR PATIENTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES - UPDATE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Trust colleagues, GP practices and Practice Based Pharmacists who have implemented the recently issued glucometer guideline for patients with type 2 diabetes<sup>1</sup>. As shown on the graphs below, all LCG areas are showing an increase in the use of cost effective blood glucose strips, which is extremely positive.



## ADDITIONS TO THE GLUCOMETER GUIDELINE

Following recent additions to the Trusts regional list of approved glucometers, HSCB has added 2 new glucometers to the guideline

<sup>1</sup> <http://niformulary.hscni.net/Formulary/Adult/6.0/6.1/6.1.6/Pages/default.aspx>

(Tee 2+<sup>®</sup> and Glucomen Areo 2K<sup>®</sup>).

Trusts and GP practices are asked to share the updated guideline with all relevant staff.

## **SWITCHING IN PRIMARY CARE**

A standard operating procedure (SOP) for switching patients with Type 2 diabetes in Primary Care to a cost effective glucometer is available on the Primary Care Intranet<sup>2</sup> (and available on request). This has been updated to reflect the changes to the glucometer guideline. The SOP states that only eligible patients, whose corresponding test strips are >£10 for 50 should be switched to an alternative choice.

Feedback received from some Trusts suggests that there may have been cases where patients have been commenced on a cost effective glucometer choice in secondary care, but within a short time, the patient has then been switched in primary care to an alternative glucometer on the HSCB guidance.

The HSCB is aware that pharmaceutical companies have supported 'a blanket switch' of patients with type 2 diabetes to the relevant company's glucometers, even patients who are already using a cost effective choice.

As you will appreciate this has the potential of causing inconvenience and confusion for patients and could also lead to wastage of glucometers, lancets and test strips. Additionally it means that valuable time spent training patients on a cost effective glucometer, has been wasted.

HSCB has issued guidance on pharmaceutical sponsored initiatives for primary care practitioners, available on the Primary Care Intranet.<sup>3</sup>

I would encourage GP practices to refer to this guidance and discuss any such projects with their Pharmacy Adviser, prior to signing up, to ensure that they are in line with HSCB initiatives.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://primarycare.hscni.net/download/DocLibrary/Pharmacy/Clinical/Diabetes/SOP-for-Switching-patients-with-TYPE-2-DIABETES-to-a-Glucometer-with-cost-effective-test-strips-in-Primary-Care>

Thanks again for your on-going support with this initiative. If you have any queries, please contact HSCB Pharmacy Adviser, Breege Brogan ([breege.brogan@hscni.net](mailto:breege.brogan@hscni.net)) for advice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Brogan', written in a cursive style.

**Joe Brogan**  
**Assistant Director of Integrated Care**  
**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**

CC. Regional Diabetes Network

**DISTRIBUTION LIST: HSCB GLUCOMETER GUIDELINE FOR PATIENTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES- UPDATE**

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<b>UU</b>			CMO office		✓
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<b>NICPLD</b>		✓	<b>NICE Implementation Facilitator</b>		
<b>NI Medicines Governance Team Leader for Secondary Care</b>		✓	<b>Coroners Service for Northern Ireland</b>		
<b>GP Federation- Professional Head of Pharmacy</b>	✓				