



## Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

### Update on availability of Wegovy® (semaglutide) to support weight loss

On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023, it was confirmed that the weight-loss drug Wegovy® (the brand name for semaglutide, a drug which is licensed by the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for managing overweight and obesity) is being made available in the UK as part of a controlled and limited launch.

Novo Nordisk, the company that manufacture Wegovy®, have confirmed that whilst supply is limited, a proportion of the available supply of Wegovy® has now been allocated to NHS services. Despite these supply constraints, NHS England is taking action to begin implementing the NICE guidance for weight management (whilst ongoing work continues to restore supplies of this class of drug for people with type 2 diabetes).

In Surrey Heartlands, we have begun discussions locally about the use of Wegovy® and this has included a discussion at our Area Prescribing Committee. Due to a number of complexities, and some wider implications we would need to consider, implementation will be discussed at a meeting of NHS Surrey Heartland's Commissioning, Contracting and Commercial Committee in January 2024. By then, we also expect to have further guidance from relevant national clinical bodies, including recommendations relating to implementation, which we will need to consider. We will provide a further update following this meeting.

As arrangements and supply are still being confirmed, we are not currently able to process any referrals to the specialist services for consideration of Wegovy®. However, we will of course keep you updated. Referrals of appropriate patients for other aspects of the specialist service should continue as usual.

In the meantime, we would encourage people to visit the [Healthy Surrey website](#), where people can find information about many free local services to help them manage their weight, keep active and improve their wellbeing.

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