

Re: Identification of preferred blood glucose test strips25th January 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to inform you that the HSE-Medicines Management Programme (MMP) has completed an evaluation to identify preferred blood glucose test strips (BGTS) for adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus, as part of the MMP's remit to support safe, effective and cost-effective prescribing.

The evaluation process was undertaken in accordance with the MMP roadmap for the *identification of preferred blood glucose test strips with associated blood glucose meter(s) for adult patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus*, and included a consultation period for submissions from suppliers of BGTS. An evaluation report is available on the MMP website (www.hse.ie/yourmedicines).

The MMP has identified a list of preferred BGTS with associated meters to ensure that there are a variety of options available to patients and prescribers.

The MMP recommends the following preferred blood glucose test strips:

Preferred BGTS		
Code	BGTS*	Reimbursement price (per 50)
85131	Finetest Lite blood glucose test strips	€6.95
97637	Microdot Max blood glucose test strips	€7.46
85110	Glucomen Area Sensor test strips	€9.44
97607	Mylife Unio test strips	€10.50
94170	4Sure blood glucose test strips	€11.22
85120	GlucoRx Nexus test strips	€11.27
85139	GlucoRx HCT glucose test strips	€11.27
85543	Accu-Chek Mobile test cassette (50)	€11.81
15963	Contour Next blood glucose test strips	€14.30
68321	One Touch Verio test strips	€14.30

*Listed in order of ascending reimbursement price, prices as of 1st February 2021

In 2019, total expenditure on BGTS was approximately €40.6 million on the Community Drug Schemes, with the majority of this expenditure on BGTS with a reimbursement price greater than €19 per pack of 50. The MMP recognises the potential for a reduction in expenditure on BGTS, but this can only be achieved by increased utilisation of the preferred BGTS.

The MMP recommends that healthcare professionals should give due consideration to the use of a preferred BGTS when commencing self-monitoring of blood glucose, and when changing BGTS in people who are not currently using a preferred product.

Please find enclosed a preferred BGTS poster outlining the preferred list, associated meters and ordering details for free meters, with further information available on the MMP website.

My thanks for your ongoing support in promoting safe, effective and cost-effective prescribing.

With best wishes,



Professor Michael Barry
National Clinical Lead, Medicines Management Programme. www.hse.ie/yourmedicines