

## **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**

Self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) involves the use of blood glucose test strips (“test strips”) with an associated blood glucose meter (“meter”). Patients can access test strips under the Community Drug Schemes, as they are included on the HSE-Primary Care Eligibility and Reimbursement Service (PCERS) list of reimbursable items.

SMBG is essential for patients with diabetes mellitus who are insulin-dependent and may also be beneficial for patients who are prescribed other hypoglycaemic agents (see previous MMP guidance: *SMBG in type 2 diabetes mellitus, January 2016<sup>1</sup>*).

There are currently 35 individual test strips on the HSE-PCERS list of reimbursable items. Test strips range in cost from €6.17 to €26.50 for a quantity of 50 test strips.<sup>2</sup> Total expenditure\* on test strips on the Community Drug Schemes exceeded €40.6 million in 2019. Test strips with a reimbursement cost greater than €19.00 for a quantity of 50, accounted for approximately 98% of this expenditure (€39.9 million).<sup>3</sup>

For test strips to be included on the list of reimbursable items, they must have satisfied the certification process, as outlined in the *HSE-PCERS Personal Diagnostic, Monitoring and Delivery Devices Guidelines for Suppliers<sup>4</sup>*, at the time of their addition to the reimbursement list. The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) has a regulatory role involving the monitoring of medical devices (e.g. test strips and meters) in Ireland including operating a national reporting system for medical devices.

The MMP aims to identify preferred test strips with associated meter(s) for adult patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus who undertake SMBG, using the criteria outlined below.

### **Evaluation Process**

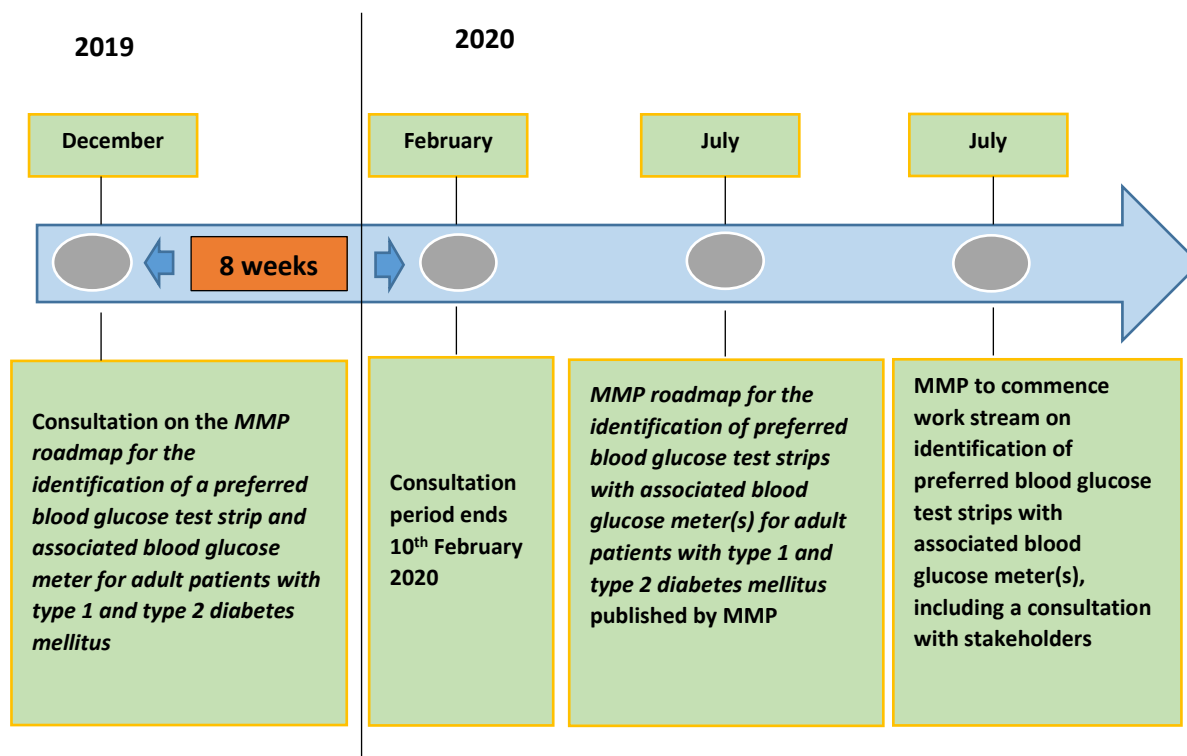
The MMP will undertake an evaluation to identify preferred test strips with associated meter(s) to support safe, effective and cost-effective prescribing. The MMP will publish Prescribing and Cost Guidance for the use of preferred test strips with associated meter(s) to include prescriber and patient support material. A collaborative approach involving clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, patients and the health service will be required to implement utilisation of the preferred test strips with associated meter(s).

**A number of criteria may be considered by the MMP in identifying preferred test strips with associated meter(s), including:**

1. Acquisition cost of the test strips
2. Shelf life of the test strips
3. Availability of patient support services by the supplier
4. Availability of education resources to healthcare professionals by the supplier
5. Robustness of supply of test strips to the Irish Market
6. Associated meter(s)
7. Patient factors
8. Acquisition cost of associated lancets
9. Any other relevant factors

## Work Plan

In July 2020, the MMP will commence work on the identification of preferred test strips with associated meter(s), using the process as outlined in this roadmap. This will include a consultation period, where submissions are invited from relevant stakeholders. This process will be limited to test strips on the HSE-PCERS list of reimbursable items, and associated meters that are currently available for supply to the Irish Market (and provided free of charge).



## Definitions

\***Total expenditure** includes ingredient cost and VAT, where applicable, based on claims submitted by pharmacists.

## References

1. Report on Self-Monitoring of Blood Glucose (SMBG) in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. January 2016. Available: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/mmpreport-on-self-monitoring-of-blood-glucose-in-type-2-diabetes.pdf>
2. HSE Primary Care Eligibility and Reimbursement Service (PCERS) list of reimbursable items Available: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/pcrs/items/>
3. PCERS database analysis - total expenditure on blood glucose test strips (2019). On file.
4. HSE-Primary Care Eligibility and Reimbursement Service Personal Diagnostic, Monitoring & Delivery Devices Guidelines for Suppliers. February 2020. Available: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cpu/non-drug-reimbursement-applications/personal-diagnostic-monitoring-and-delivery-guidelines/personal-diagnostic-monitoring-and-delivery-reimbursement-guidelines-feb-2020.pdf>