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29th November 2023

Circular 034/23

RE: Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) Reimbursement Application System

Dear Doctor,

Further to Circular 29/23, a reimbursement application system for Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) sensors will come into effect on 1st December 2023. Due to the budget impact associated with these products, the HSE has established a single reimbursement application system for all CGM sensors on the Reimbursement List. This reimbursement application system will apply to any future CGM sensors reimbursed under Community Drug Schemes.

The reimbursement application system is confined to those hospital clinicians responsible for the initiation of CGM systems for individuals with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus. Reimbursement support of these products has not been extended to any other patient cohort. All applications will be reviewed by the HSE-Medicines Management Programme.

Patients treated with insulin who have recently accessed a CGM sensor under Community Drug Schemes will continue to have reimbursement support. Approval of these patients will be visible to the dispensing pharmacist through the PCRS Secure Scheme Checker. A new application will not be required where approval is in place.

Frequently asked questions are enclosed to support Healthcare Professionals.

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement

Continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) sensors reimbursement

Questions and Answers for Healthcare Professionals

1. What is a CGM system and what is it used for?

Continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) systems provide an alternative approach to using blood glucose test strips for self-monitoring of blood glucose, by measuring glucose levels in the interstitial fluid (a thin layer of fluid around the cells). These systems comprise of sensors (self-administered subcutaneously, typically in the upper arm and replaced every 7 to 14 days depending on the system), transmitters (or combined sensors and transmitters), and a mechanism to display the results (readers/receivers or smart device application). There are two types of CGM systems; real-time CGM (rtCGM) and intermittently scanned CGM (isCGM).

2. What changes are being made to the reimbursement of CGM sensors?

The HSE is establishing a single reimbursement application system for all CGM sensors on the reimbursement list. This reimbursement application system will apply to all current and any future CGM sensors reimbursed under the Community Drug Schemes.

This online reimbursement application system will replace the current reimbursement application system that is in place for FreeStyle Libre 1.

If hospital clinicians wish to initiate CGM for a patient who has not recently been dispensed a CGM sensor, they will be required to submit an online application for reimbursement approval. All applications will be reviewed by the HSE Medicines Management Programme.

Reimbursement support for CGM sensors under the Community Drug Schemes is for patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus only regardless of age. Reimbursement support for these products has not been extended to any other patient cohort.

3. Why are the HSE introducing changes to the reimbursement of CGM sensors?

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) *Rapid Health Technology Assessment of Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Adults with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus* was published on 29th September 2023. The published document can be found at:

<https://www.hiqa.ie/reports-and-publications/health-technology-assessment/rapid-health-technology-assessment-continuous>

In line with the advice from HIQA and due to the budget impact associated with CGM sensors the HSE are implementing the changes outlined above.

4. When will these changes to the reimbursement of CGM sensors be introduced?

These changes to the reimbursement of CGM sensors will be introduced on 1st December 2023. From this date, all patients initiating on CGM sensors must receive prior approval for reimbursement support.

5. Who can apply for reimbursement approval for CGM sensors?

Hospital clinicians responsible for the initiation of CGM systems (i.e., clinicians in diabetes clinics) will have access to apply for reimbursement approval for suitable patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus.

6. How can an online application be submitted?

Applications for individual reimbursement approval of CGM sensors must be submitted by the clinician responsible for the initiation of the CGM system, through the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) Special Drug Request online reimbursement application system. The CGM sensors online reimbursement application system will be available through the PCRS website www.pcrs.ie [*PCRS Online Services > Services for Hospitals > CGM Sensor Reimbursement Application*].

Clinicians must be user-registered with the HSE PCRS to apply. The *Special Drug Request Reimbursement - User Registration Form* is available on the PCRS website (www.pcrs.ie > Online Services > Services for Hospitals). Completed registration forms can be submitted to cert.info@hse.ie. Once authorised, the user will be issued with a username and password.

For clinicians who had access to submit online reimbursement applications for Freestyle Libre, this access will be transferred to the new CGM sensor online reimbursement application system.

7. How will a pharmacist check if a patient is approved for reimbursement of a CGM sensor?

Patient specific approval will be visible on the Secure Scheme Checker for pharmacists under “Patient Specific Arrangements”.

8. How will patients who are already accessing a CGM sensor under the Community Drug Schemes be managed?

Patients using insulin who have recently accessed a CGM sensor under Community Drug Schemes will continue to have reimbursement support.

Approval of these patients will be visible on the Secure Scheme Checker and an application through the new online reimbursement application system will not be required where approval is in place. This includes those patients currently approved for FreeStyle Libre 1 sensors.

9. What CGM sensors are currently on the reimbursement list?

The following CGM sensors are available on the reimbursement list as of 1st December 2023:

GMS Code	CGM Sensor Name	Pack Size
97628	Dexcom G6	1
97629	Dexcom G6	3
97631	Dexcom G7	1
85241	GlucRx Aidex	1
86900	FreeStyle Libre 1	1
85581	FreeStyle Libre 2	1
99962	Medtronic Guardian 4 BNUIG4SCGM10	10
99963	Medtronic Guardian 4 BNUIG4SMDI10	10
94169	Medtronic Guardian 3 BNGLGSENS310	10
83204	Medtronic Glucose Enlite BNENSENS	10

10. Is the reimbursement approval for a specific CGM sensor?

The reimbursement approval is for the use of any one of the CGM sensors that are available on the reimbursement list as of 1st December 2023.

The HSE MMP is currently undertaking an evaluation of all available CGM sensors with the aim to identify a preferred CGM sensor(s) in the coming months.

11. How will claims for CGM sensors be processed?

Pharmacies can dispense and claim for CGM sensors electronically using the individual GMS codes for the product, submitting in the normal manner with monthly claims.

12. Who do I contact in relation to reimbursement queries for CGM sensors?

The HSE PCRS should be contacted at the following email address:

pharmacy.response@hse.ie

13. Who do I contact in relation to an individual reimbursement application that has been submitted?

The HSE MMP should be contacted at the following email address: mmp@hse.ie