



28th January 2021

Circular 003/21

Identification of preferred blood glucose test strips

Dear Pharmacist,

Please find enclosed a communication from Prof Michael Barry, Clinical Lead of the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) in relation to preferred blood glucose test strips (BGTS) for adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus following an evaluation process.

The MMP recognises the potential to achieve efficiencies in this area by increasing the use of preferred BGTS. Whilst no changes have been introduced to the way that blood glucose test strips are reimbursed at present, this area of expenditure will be carefully monitored over the coming months. The MMP is working with the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes to support Healthcare Professionals to use the preferred list in their clinical practice and to increase the uptake and utilisation of these products.

Further information on the preferred blood glucose test strips with associated meter(s) is available at www.hse.ie/yourmedicines.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Flanagan'.

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement



Re: Identification of preferred blood glucose test strips

25th 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 Areo 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

Preferred Blood Glucose Test Strips (BGTS) for adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes



The MMP recommends a preferred BGTS (List A) with an associated meter for:

- ✓ People who are newly diagnosed with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) and require self monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG).
- ✓ People with diabetes (type 2) where continued SMBG is recommended on review.
- ✓ People with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) changing their current meter where SMBG is recommended.

Prescribers should give due consideration to the use of preferred BGTS when commencing SMBG and when changing a meter in established patients.

Implementation of the preferred BGTS will lead to significant savings for the HSE, in the order of millions of euros.

Preferred BGTS (List A)		Associated meters		Practice Point
BGTS	Reimbursement		Code	
	Code	Price (as of 1 st February 2021)		Price
Finetest Lite blood glucose test strips	85131	€6.95	Finetest Lite Finetest Lite Smart	<p>Practice Point</p> <p>As part of diabetes care, the meter in use by patients should be reviewed regularly. If a meter has not been replaced in the previous 2 years, change to a preferred BGTS (List A) with associated meter.</p> <p>Meters should be registered with the company at the time of initiation of use.</p> <p>Lancet Recommendation</p> <p>The use of a universal lancing device with lancets costing ≤€6 per 200 for all patients undertaking SMBG is recommended.</p> <p><i>Note: GlucoRx lancets pack of 200 (97602) include a lancing device.</i></p>
Microdot Max blood glucose test strips	97637	€7.46	Microdot Max	
Glucomen Areo Sensor test strips	85110	€9.44	Glucomen Areo Glucomen Areo ZK*	
Mylife Unio test strips	97607	€10.50	Mylife Unio Cara** Mylife Unio Neva**	
4Sure blood glucose test strips	94170	€11.22	4Sure SMART 4Sure SMART DUO*	
GlucoRx Nexus test strips	85120	€11.27	GlucoRx Nexus (TD-4277) † GlucoRx Nexus mini ultra (TD-4141) GlucoRx Nexus Voice (TD-4280) †	
GlucoRx HCT glucose test strips	85139	€11.27	GlucoRx HCT (TD-4279)* GlucoRx HCT Connect (TD-4140)* GlucoRx HCT Connectr (TD-4140b)*	
Accu-Chek Mobile test cassette (50)	85543	€11.81	Accu-Chek Mobile	
Contour Next blood glucose test strips	15963	€14.30	Contour Next One Contour XT Contour Next Link 2.4**	
One Touch Verio test strips	68321	€14.30	One Touch Verio Reflect	

* Compatible blood ketone test strips	
Code	Price
97605	€11.22
85140	€11.24
97601	€11.27

**** Insulin pumps**

There are BGTS with associated meters available on List A that have compatibility with insulin pumps (see overleaf).

Full evaluation report is available at: www.hse.ie/yourmedicines
See overleaf for further information.

All featured BGTS come in packs of 50 strips (some as 2x25 strips) * Compatible with blood ketone testing ** Compatible with insulin pumps † 'Talking' capability This list is not exhaustive and represents meters submitted to the MMP at the time of the evaluation process. Refer to individual suppliers for further information. †Also available: GlucoRx GO (recommended for use by healthcare professionals, therefore not included overleaf)

Preferred BGTS (List A) with associated meters



Finetest Lite blood glucose test strips (85131) €6.95		Microdot Max blood glucose test strips (97637) €7.46		Glucomen Area Sensor test strips (85110) €9.44		MyLife Unio test strips (97607) €10.50	
Blood volume (µL): 0.5 Haematocrit (%): 20-65 Test range (mmol/L): 1.1-33.3	Open pack expiry: 6 months (2x25 pack) Test range (mmol/L): 1.1-33.3	Blood volume (µL): 0.5 Haematocrit (%): 0-70	Open pack expiry: 6 months Test range (mmol/L): 0.6-33.3	Blood volume (µL): 0.5 (glucose), 0.8 (ketone) Haematocrit (%): 10-70 (glucose), 20-60 (ketone)	Open pack expiry: 12 months Test range (mmol/L): 1.1-33.3 (glucose), 0.1-8.0 (ketone)	Blood volume (µL): 0.7 Haematocrit (%): 20-70	Open pack expiry: 12 months Test range (mmol/L): 0.6-33.3
Neon Diagnostics Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 932 297 or Email: info@neondiagnosics.ie Patient supports: www.neondiagnosics.ie	Cambridge Sensors Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1850 211 896 or Email: sales@microdot.biz Patient supports: www.microdot.biz	Medicon Ireland Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 709 903 or Email: customerservice@mediconire.com Patient supports: www.mediconire.com		Ypsomed Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 911 522 or Email: info@ypsomed.co.uk Patient supports: www.mylife-diabetescare.com			
Finetest Lite Meter memory: 500 App: No	Microdot Max Meter memory: 500 App: Yes	Glucomen Area Meter memory: 730 App: Yes	Glucomen Area 2K Meter memory: 730 App: Yes	MyLife Unio Cara Meter memory: 1000 App: Yes	MyLife Unio Neva Meter memory: 1000 App: Yes		
Compatible with: 4sure B-ketone strips (97605) €11.22	Compatible with: 4sure B-ketone strips (97605) €11.22	Compatible with: Area B ketone sensors (85140) €11.24	Compatible with: Area B ketone sensors (85140) €11.24	Contact supplier for a list of compatible insulin pumps	Contact supplier for a list of compatible insulin pumps		
4Sure blood glucose test strips (94170) €11.22		GlucorX HCT glucose test strips (85139) €11.27		GlucorX Nexus test strips (85120) €11.27			
Blood volume (µL): 0.5 (glucose), 0.8 (ketone) Haematocrit (%): 0-70 (glucose), 10-70 (ketone)	Open pack expiry: up to 24 months (expiry not affected by opening)	Blood volume (µL): 1.0 (glucose and ketone) Haematocrit (%): 0-70 (glucose), 10-70 (ketone)	Open pack expiry: up to 24 months (expiry not affected by opening)	Blood volume (µL): 0.5 Haematocrit (%): 30-60	Open pack expiry: up to 24 months (expiry not affected by opening)		
Clonmel Healthcare TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 26 26 26 or Email: salesorders@clonmel-health.ie Patient supports: www.nipiro-group.com/en-en/products	Windzor Pharma Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 01 6950401 or Email: info@windzorpharma.com Patient supports: www.glucorx.ie	Windzor Pharma Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 01 6950401 or Email: info@windzorpharma.com Patient supports: www.glucorx.ie		Windzor Pharma Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 01 6950401 or Email: info@windzorpharma.com Patient supports: www.glucorx.ie			
4Sure SMART Meter memory: 1000 App: Yes	4Sure SMART DUO Meter memory: 1000 App: Yes	GlucorX HCT (TD-4279) Meter memory: 1000 App: No	GlucorX HCT Connect (TD-4140) Memory: Unlimited (with App) App: Yes	GlucorX Nexus (TD-4277) Meter Memory: 1000 App: No	GlucorX Nexus Mini Ultra (TD-4141) Meter memory: 1000 App: Yes		
Compatible with: 4sure B-ketone strips (97605) €11.22	Compatible with: 4sure B-ketone strips (97605) €11.22	Compatible with: compatible devices	Compatible with: compatible devices	Compatible with: App: Yes	Compatible with: App: No		
Accu-Chek Mobile test cassette (50) (85543) €11.81		Contour Next blood glucose test strips (15963) €14.30		One Touch Verio test strips (68321) €14.30			
Blood volume (µL): 0.3-0.5 Haematocrit (%): 25-55	Open pack expiry: 3 months (once in meter) Test range (mmol/L): 0.6-33.3	Blood volume (µL): 0.6 Haematocrit (%): 0-70	Open pack expiry: up to 24 months (expiry not affected by opening) Test range (mmol/L): 0.6-33.3	Blood volume (µL): 0.4 Haematocrit (%): 20-60	Open pack expiry: 6 months Test range (mmol/L): 1.1-33.3		
Roche Diabetest Care Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 931 078 or Email: Burgesshill.d.caccountmanagers@roche.com Patient supports: www.accu-chek.ie	Ascensia Diabetest Care Ireland Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1890 920 111 or Email: diabetessupport@ascensia.com Patient supports: www.diabetes.ascensia.ie	Ascensia Diabetest Care Ireland Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1890 920 111 or Email: diabetessupport@ascensia.com Patient supports: www.diabetes.ascensia.ie		Lifescan Ireland Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 535 676 Patient supports: www.myonetouch.ie			
Accu-Chek Mobile Meter memory: 2000 App: Yes	Contour Next One Meter memory: 480 App: No	Contour XT Meter memory: 1000 App: No	Contour Next Link 2.4 Meter memory: 1000 App: No	GlucorX Nexus Voice (TD-4280) Meter memory: 450 App: No	One Touch Verio Reflect Meter memory: 750 App: Yes		
Compatible with: insulin pump compatibility and 'talking' capability as per coding:	Compatible with: insulin pump compatibility and 'talking' capability as per coding:	Compatible with: insulin pumps	Compatible with: insulin pumps	Contact supplier for a list of compatible insulin pumps	Contact supplier for a list of compatible insulin pumps		
Blue: Compatible with ketone testing	Orange: Compatible with insulin Pumps	Pink: 'Talking' capability					
This list is a guide only and is not exhaustive. It is based on information submitted to the MMP by suppliers during the evaluation process. Healthcare professional clinical judgement should be used when choosing a suitable meter for individuals. Images are for illustrative purposes only. Please refer to individual suppliers for further information.							
MMP Version 1 February 2021							