

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_516_18

You asked:

1. Could you confirm if there is a guidance / formulary in place relating to the prescribing of blood glucose meters across the Cwm Taf area? If this does currently exist, please could you provide a copy?
2. Could you please provide contact details for the person responsible for drawing up such guidance on blood glucose meters at CCG / Medicines Management level?
3. Are there any financial rebates in place with chosen suppliers relating to the supply of blood glucose strips? If so, please could you provide details of which company and details of any agreement including how the amount of rebate is calculated and agreed period?
4. Are there any financial rebates in place with chosen suppliers relating to the supply of insulin pen needles? If so, please could you provide details of which company and details of any agreement including how the amount of rebate is calculated and agreed period?

Our response:

Questions 1-3

Under Section 21 of the Act, Cwm Taf University Health Board is not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is available within the [Disclosure Log](#) on the Cwm Taf University Health Board [web site](#). For ease of access I have attached a link directly to the information below:

- [CTHB 378 18](#)
- CTHB_489_18 (Attached – will be uploaded to our disclosure log shortly)

Question 4

Rebate schemes for insulin pen needles would be agreed at an All Wales Level. For details relating to these, you would need to redirect your request to [NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership](#) (NWSSP), whom provide procurement services for NHS Wales.

They can be contacted via the following email address:

Email - shared.services@wales.nhs.uk

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_489_18

You asked:

Please provide the following information regarding formularies and rebate schemes for blood glucose test strips in Cwm Taf Health Board.

- 1. Does the Health Board have a formulary for Blood Glucose Test Strips? If so please can you provide the formulary or link to the formulary.
If you cannot provide a link, can you advise which products are included under what guidance?**

Cwm Taf University Health Board does not have a formulary for Blood Glucose Strips. However, we do have a preferred list (please see attachment 1).

- 2. Please advise the responsible Medicines Optimisation contact for the above formulary and their contact details.**

Medicines Management Practice Unit, Pharmacy Department, Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

- 3. Please advise the dates when the above formulary was last reviewed and when it is due for next review?**

The preferred list (attached) is currently due for review.

- 4. Please provide a list of all Blood Glucose Test Strip rebate schemes that are currently in place in Cwm Taf Health Board.**

There is a rebate scheme in place for Contour Next 2 strips.

- 5. For each of the Blood Glucose Test Strip rebate schemes currently in place in Cwm Taf Health Board please provide the following information where possible:**

- The name of the blood glucose test strip included in the rebate scheme.**
- The start and, if applicable, end date of the rebate scheme.**
- Is the rebate scheme based on an agreed volume?**
- Is the rebate scheme based on a percentage of blood glucose test strips prescribed?**
- Is there any other condition to the rebate scheme?**

- **What is the value of the discount applied to the NHS Drug Tariff price of the blood glucose test strip?**

I can confirm that Cwm Taf University Health Board holds information relating to standing charge & unit rates. However, I would like to advise you that the information you requested is being withheld under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The exemption which the Health Board has applied to this information is: Section (43)(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Health Board considers the information to be of a commercially sensitive nature and that the release of this information would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any parties concerned.

The University Health Board accepts that there is a public interest in ensuring openness and transparency however, the Health Board believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could have the effect of discouraging companies from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn this could then jeopardise the Health Boards ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money.

Blood Glucose Meters **Information for all Healthcare Professionals** **in Cwm Taf**

Please find below a summary of the information sent out to all GP practices in January 2015 regarding the use of blood glucose meters in Cwm Taf UHB.

Preferred Meters in Cwm Taf UHB; **Pura (My Life) Ypsomed** **True You**

Please note that there are meters that are required by patients for specific purposes, e.g. blood ketone monitors, bolus advisors, meters for visual impairment. These meters will be used where necessary and compatible sensors/strips will be need to be prescribed

If patients choose to buy/order their own meter, BEFORE prescribing blood glucose test strips please discuss with the patient and ensure that the meter;

- **is appropriate for use**
- **meets any requirements for the DVLA**
- **one of the preferred meters is not suitable**
- **the patient can use the meter appropriately**

Implementation of 'Preferred List'

1) Newly diagnosed patients

For newly diagnosed patients who need to monitor their blood glucose, these meters should be considered as a first line option where appropriate.

2) Patients already testing blood glucose

For patients already testing, the advice is only to consider switching to one of the above meters where appropriate. We DO NOT recommend that any patients are changed to a new meter without a face to face discussion e.g. annual review, and only if the patient is in agreement with the change.

3) Supply of Meters

The companies involved have been contacting GP practices to arrange a convenient time to visit to supply the meters and check on any training requirements.

We DO NOT advise any use of company representatives for switching of meters.

Please ensure the patient is fully trained in the use of a preferred meter before switching and that it is appropriate for the individual patient.

For any further information please contact your prescribing advisor at the UHB.