



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Circular 007/17

24th February 2017

Liraglutide (Type II Diabetes)

Dear Pharmacist,

The Medicines Management Programme have developed prescribing and dispensing tips in relation to the use of Liraglutide for the treatment of adult patients with Type II Diabetes. Please find enclosed a copy of the communication from the Medicines Management Programme for your information.

Liraglutide is currently available on GMS and Community Drugs Schemes as follows;

Drug Code	Drug Name	Pack Size	Strength	Unit	Pharmaceutical Form
13221	Victoza® (PCO) Soln for Inj	2	6	mg/ml	Pre Filled Pen
47980	Victoza® Soln for Inj	2	6	mg/ml	Pre Filled Pen
47981	Victoza® Soln for Inj	3	6	mg/ml	Pre Filled Pen

The maximum quantity allowed under GMS and Community Drug Schemes is one box of Victoza® per month (or a maximum of three pens). Prescriptions for Liraglutide (Victoza®) at doses in excess of 1.8 mg are outside the licensed indication and may not be reimbursed.

I am also using this opportunity to enclose another document which may be of interest:

- Asthma and COPD Adviceline Service

The HSE, Asthma Society of Ireland (ASI) and COPD Support Ireland launched a joint Adviceline last summer for people with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Further information and resources are available from: www.asthma.ie, www.copd.ie and www.hse.ie

Yours faithfully,

Anne Marie Hoey
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility

Liraglutide (Victoza®)

Prescribing and Dispensing Tips

Indication

Liraglutide is indicated for treatment of adult patients with Type II diabetes to achieve glycaemic control as **monotherapy** when diet and exercise do not provide glycaemic control in patients for whom treatment with metformin is inappropriate due to intolerances or contraindicated, *or in combination therapy* - with oral glucose-lowering medicinal products and/or basal insulin when these, together with diet and exercise do not provide adequate glycaemic control.

Mode of action

Liraglutide binds to human glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor to increase insulin secretion, suppress glucagon secretion and slow gastric emptying.

Dose

To improve gastro-intestinal tolerability, the starting dose of liraglutide is **0.6mg daily**. After one week the dose should be increased to **1.2mg daily**. The dose can be increased after one week to a maximum of **1.8mg daily**.

Preparations available in Ireland

Each liraglutide pen contains 3 ml solution, delivering 30 doses of 0.6 mg, 15 doses of 1.2 mg or 10 doses of 1.8 mg.

Preparation	Pack size	GMS code	Total number of doses	Price*	Monthly dispensed quantity
Victoza® 6mg/ml solution for injection in prefilled pen	2 x 3ml	47980	30 x 1.2ml doses	€99.75	One box (two pens) per month should be dispensed for patients prescribed 1.2mg daily
Victoza® 6mg/ml solution for injection in prefilled pen	3 x 3ml	47981	30 x 1.8ml doses	€149.62	One box (three pens) per month should be dispensed for patients prescribed 1.8mg daily

*PCRS reimbursed price

All prescriptions for liraglutide should contain the daily dose to be taken and pharmacists should ensure dosing instructions are included on the dispensing label. Any prescription for liraglutide at doses in excess of 1.8mg daily are outside the licensed indication and may not be reimbursed.



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Asthma and COPD Adviceline service

During the summer, the HSE, the Asthma Society of Ireland and COPD Support Ireland launched a joint Adviceline service for people with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Asthma and COPD are two of the largest chronic diseases in Ireland with 850,000 people living with either asthma or COPD. While the Asthma Society has been operating an Asthma Adviceline for over 25 years, this new expanded service meets the needs of an increasing population with COPD. With the onset of winter there will be an increase in the numbers of people suffering from respiratory illnesses. You may be working with patients, residents or clients, or you may have a family member, with Asthma or COPD who might benefit from this adviceline service.

The expanded Adviceline service is a collaboration between the Asthma Society of Ireland (ASI), COPD Support Ireland and the Health Service Executive. **The COPD Adviceline is available at 1800 83 21 46 and the Asthma Adviceline is available at 1800 44 54 64.** Callers can avail of the service by calling the free phone number between 09:00 and 17:00 Monday to Friday. A call back appointment with an experienced respiratory nurse specialist will be scheduled for a time and day that suits each individual caller.

Respiratory illness can be complex and the advice and support offered by a specialist nurse can inspire confidence in the message of self-management and reassure callers or families of people living with these lifelong chronic conditions. The nurses working on the Adviceline have a great knowledge of asthma and COPD as well as significant clinical experience of caring for these patients, giving them an insight into the challenges faced by patients in terms of managing their asthma or COPD. They are uniquely placed to offer information and support to this group.

The service:

- Provides an easily accessible support and education service to people living with asthma and/ or COPD
- Empowers people to engage effectively with their healthcare professionals and healthcare services
- Provides people with appropriate services, resources and materials
- Encourages people to look after their general health and wellbeing through encouraging smoking cessation, physical activity, and promoting vaccinations.

Patient education tools, resources and booklets are available to patients along with the adviceline support to ensure that patients are best informed and supported in managing their condition. The Asthma Society of Ireland's Asthma Adviceline was recently awarded an independent quality mark by the Helplines Partnership, one of only three helplines in Ireland to have achieved this standard. A recent review of the service found that 97% of callers to the Adviceline said they would recommend the service to family or friends and over 90% of callers spoke to a nurse on two occasions or more.

Further information and resources are available from:

www.asthma.ie

www.copd.ie

www.hse.ie