

Updated position statement: Wegovy® for managing overweight and obesity

It was announced in September 2023 that Wegovy® (semaglutide) is now available in the UK and on the NHS through a controlled and limited launch.

Across North West London a **RED** list status has been agreed. A red list status indicates that responsibility for prescribing of a medicine should remain with the hospital trust consultant and this means that Wegovy® will not be prescribed by GPs in North West London.

The current agreement endorsed locally in North West London is that Wegovy® will initially only be prescribed by specialist weight management services at Chelsea & Westminster and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust in North West London.

Please note that there will be a phased implementation in line with the [guidance issued by the Society for Endocrinology and Obesity Management Collaborative UK](#). Initially patients who meet the eligibility criteria listed in phase 1 of the guidance will be prioritised for referral to the specialist weight management service to allow those with the combination of highest and most urgent clinical need to be assessed.

Following the initial phase there will be an evaluation by clinicians to establish the safety and effectiveness of the treatment in clinical practice. This is a similar approach that many other ICBs are following.

North West London consider it essential that patients who are prescribed novel specialist medical therapies for obesity can access expertise to support progress, navigate challenges relating to the disease process, manage complex comorbidities and work on sustainable changes. This is especially important as NHS prescribing for an eligible patient will be for a maximum of 2 years at present.

We continue to encourage people living with overweight and obesity to access support through the NHS website and local NHS advice and services. When discussing potential referrals to weight management services, GPs are asked to make it clear to patients that Wegovy® is only one option for supporting patients with obesity and that referral does not guarantee that Wegovy® will be prescribed.