



## Further updates on Ozempic (semaglutide) supply shortage

The ADS has been advised by the TGA that the weekly GLP-1 RA (GLP-1 receptor agonist) diabetes medication semaglutide (Ozempic) will be **unavailable** in Australia, possibly until the end of the first quarter 2023.

GLP-1 receptor agonist Dulaglutide (Trulicity), is expected to have limited availability.

This is part of a worldwide issue and while we understand this is a cause of concern, it is important to note that there are other effective diabetes medicines available in Australia for people with type 2 diabetes that contribute to improved health outcomes.

Management choices are guided by the **AUSTRALIAN TYPE 2 DIABETES GLYCAEMIC MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM** available at:

- [ADS - Treatment Management Plans: Type 2 Diabetes & Obesity](#)
- [RACGP - Management of type 2 diabetes: A handbook for general practice](#)

### **GUIDANCE**

- Do not initiate new patients on either of these agents
- Consider individualised approaches to people with diabetes such as the following:
  - Review the need for a GLP1-RA. If clinical response was limited, reconsider the need to prescribe and whether any replacement is required
  - Liraglutide is not subsidised by PBS, is administered once daily, and has evidence of cardiovascular benefit
  - SGLT-2 inhibitors as alternative oral therapy, [especially in those who also have cardiovascular disease, multiple cardiovascular risk factors and/or kidney disease](#)

- DPP-4 inhibitors may be useful, [in those who do not have cardiovascular disease, multiple cardiovascular risk factors or kidney disease, and are unable to achieve optimal blood glucose levels](#)
- Sulphonylureas or insulin (initiation or titrated doses) can also be considered, but they may lead to risks for hypoglycaemia and weight gain

It is not recommended to start people with type 2 diabetes on exenatide as it is being discontinued and will no longer be available once existing stocks are exhausted, which is predicted to occur next month.

We encourage all GPs to identify and support any person affected by the unavailability of the GLP1-RA to make an appointment to actively review their diabetes or obesity management. This is an opportunity to consider other medicines, as well as to revisit other aspects of the type 2 diabetes and obesity management including appropriate lifestyle interventions and complications risk assessments.

There is also lots of information and support available through the **National Diabetes Services Scheme** to help your patients with their diabetes management. [Click here](#) (link to range of fact sheets) or if they have any concerns, please contact Diabetes Australia on **1800 637 700**.

The Australian Diabetes Society will continue to work with the RACGP and other health professional organisations to ensure GPs have the latest information to support people living with diabetes.

For more information on the Ozempic (semaglutide) shortage supply, please visit the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#) website.

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