

Prescribing Memo

Blood Glucose Testing Strip Reminder

Date: 10th October 2014

Memo Number: 17/14

Main Points

In July 2014 over 2750 prescriptions were written for formulary blood glucose test strips, which is ten-fold increase on the same month in 2013. This is increasing month on month with good uptake in all areas.

There has been a single patient safety concern reported which may be related to the BGT strip changes and this concern is currently being investigated.

Prescribers are reminded to exercise caution when changing patients to alternative testing meters. It is strongly advised to avoid any blanket switches as patients should be assessed and changed based on the individual clinical merits.

Any patients reporting difficulty after switching should be offered the opportunity to change back to the original meter without delay.

A significant number of patients have been changed over to use one of the four blood glucose testing strips that are on the joint prescribing formulary.

It is estimated that 80% of patients will be suitable to use one of the formulary approved blood glucose testing strips.

All decisions to change a patient to a different blood glucose testing strip should be made on an individual clinical basis. It will not be appropriate to change blood glucose testing strips for all patients.

Patients who should not be changed include:

- Newly diagnosed patients with (or are suspected to have) type 1 diabetes who need to test for both ketones and glucose and those patients who wish to use a single meter for regular ketones and glucose testing due to risk of diabetic ketoacidosis, previous history or erratic control

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- Patients on an insulin pump
- Patients who are pregnant / preconception
- Children
- Patients on renal dialysis
- Patients who are carbohydrate counting (who will be under the care of a diabetes specialist nurse).

If you have any enquiries then please contact the [Medicines Optimisation team](#)