



28th January 2021

Circular 002/21

Identification of preferred blood glucose test strips

Dear Doctor,

Please find enclosed a communication from Prof Michael Barry, Clinical Lead of the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) in relation to preferred blood glucose test strips (BGTS) for adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus following an evaluation process.

The MMP recognises the potential to achieve efficiencies in this area by increasing the use of preferred BGTS. Whilst no changes have been introduced to the way that blood glucose test strips are reimbursed at present, this area of expenditure will be carefully monitored over the coming months. The MMP is working with the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes to support Healthcare Professionals to use the preferred list in their clinical practice and to increase the uptake and utilisation of these products.

Further information on the preferred blood glucose test strips with associated meter(s) is available at www.hse.ie/yourmedicines.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Flanagan'.

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement



Re: Identification of preferred blood glucose test strips

25th January 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to inform you that the HSE-Medicines Management Programme (MMP) has completed an evaluation to identify preferred blood glucose test strips (BGTS) for adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus, as part of the MMP's remit to support safe, effective and cost-effective prescribing.

The evaluation process was undertaken in accordance with the MMP roadmap for the *identification of preferred blood glucose test strips with associated blood glucose meter(s) for adult patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus*, and included a consultation period for submissions from suppliers of BGTS. An evaluation report is available on the MMP website (www.hse.ie/yourmedicines).

The MMP has identified a list of preferred BGTS with associated meters to ensure that there are a variety of options available to patients and prescribers.

The MMP recommends the following preferred blood glucose test strips:

Preferred BGTS		
Code	BGTS*	Reimbursement price (per 50)
85131	Finetest Lite blood glucose test strips	€6.95
97637	Microdot Max blood glucose test strips	€7.46
85110	Glucomen Areo Sensor test strips	€9.44
97607	Mylife Unio test strips	€10.50
94170	4Sure blood glucose test strips	€11.22
85120	GlucoRx Nexus test strips	€11.27
85139	GlucoRx HCT glucose test strips	€11.27
85543	Accu-Chek Mobile test cassette (50)	€11.81
15963	Contour Next blood glucose test strips	€14.30
68321	One Touch Verio test strips	€14.30

*Listed in order of ascending reimbursement price, prices as of 1st February 2021

In 2019, total expenditure on BGTS was approximately €40.6 million on the Community Drug Schemes, with the majority of this expenditure on BGTS with a reimbursement price greater than €19 per pack of 50. The MMP recognises the potential for a reduction in expenditure on BGTS, but this can only be achieved by increased utilisation of the preferred BGTS.

The MMP recommends that healthcare professionals should give due consideration to the use of a preferred BGTS when commencing self-monitoring of blood glucose, and when changing BGTS in people who are not currently using a preferred product.

Please find enclosed a preferred BGTS poster outlining the preferred list, associated meters and ordering details for free meters, with further information available on the MMP website.

My thanks for your ongoing support in promoting safe, effective and cost-effective prescribing.

With best wishes,

Professor Michael Barry

National Clinical Lead, Medicines Management Programme. www.hse.ie/yourmedicines

Preferred Blood Glucose Test Strips (BGTS) for adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes



The MMP recommends a preferred BGTS (List A) with an associated meter for:

- ✓ People who are newly diagnosed with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) and require self monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG).
- ✓ People with diabetes (type 2) where continued SMBG is recommended on review.
- ✓ People with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) changing their current meter where SMBG is recommended.

Prescribers should give due consideration to the use of preferred BGTS when commencing SMBG and when changing a meter in established patients.

Implementation of the preferred BGTS will lead to significant savings for the HSE, in the order of millions of euros.

Preferred BGTS (List A)		Associated meters		Practice Point
BGTS	Reimbursement		Code	
	Code	Price (as of 1 st February 2021)		Price
Finetest Lite blood glucose test strips	85131	€6.95	Finetest Lite Finetest Lite Smart	<p>Practice Point</p> <p>As part of diabetes care, the meter in use by patients should be reviewed regularly. If a meter has not been replaced in the previous 2 years, change to a preferred BGTS (List A) with associated meter.</p> <p>Meters should be registered with the company at the time of initiation of use.</p> <p>Lancet Recommendation</p> <p>The use of a universal lancing device with lancets costing ≤€6 per 200 for all patients undertaking SMBG is recommended.</p> <p><i>Note: GlucoRx lancets pack of 200 (97602) include a lancing device.</i></p>
Microdot Max blood glucose test strips	97637	€7.46	Microdot Max	
Glucomen Areo Sensor test strips	85110	€9.44	Glucomen Areo Glucomen Areo ZK*	
Mylife Unio test strips	97607	€10.50	Mylife Unio Cara** Mylife Unio Neva**	
4Sure blood glucose test strips	94170	€11.22	4Sure SMART 4Sure SMART DUO*	
GlucoRx Nexus test strips	85120	€11.27	GlucoRx Nexus (TD-4277) † GlucoRx Nexus mini ultra (TD-4141) GlucoRx Nexus Voice (TD-4280) †	
GlucoRx HCT glucose test strips	85139	€11.27	GlucoRx HCT (TD-4279)* GlucoRx HCT Connect (TD-4140)* GlucoRx HCT Connectr (TD-4140b)*	
Accu-Chek Mobile test cassette (50)	85543	€11.81	Accu-Chek Mobile	
Contour Next blood glucose test strips	15963	€14.30	Contour Next One Contour XT Contour Next Link 2.4**	
One Touch Verio test strips	68321	€14.30	One Touch Verio Reflect	

* Compatible blood ketone test strips	
Code	Price
97605	€11.22
85140	€11.24
97601	€11.27

**** Insulin pumps**

There are BGTS with associated meters available on List A that have compatibility with insulin pumps (see overleaf).

Full evaluation report is available at: www.hse.ie/yourmedicines
See overleaf for further information.

All featured BGTS come in packs of 50 strips (some as 2x25 strips) * Compatible with blood ketone testing ** Compatible with insulin pumps † 'Talking' capability This list is not exhaustive and represents meters submitted to the MMP at the time of the evaluation process. Refer to individual suppliers for further information. †Also available: GlucoRx GO (recommended for use by healthcare professionals, therefore not included overleaf)

Preferred BGTS (List A) with associated meters



Finetest Lite blood glucose test strips (85131) €6.95		Microdot Max blood glucose test strips (97637) €7.46		Glucomen Area Sensor test strips (85110) €9.44		MyLife Unio test strips (97607) €10.50	
Blood volume (µL): 0.5 Haematocrit (%): 20-65 Test range (mmol/L): 1.1-33.3	Open pack expiry: 6 months (2x25 pack) Test range (mmol/L): 1.1-33.3	Blood volume (µL): 0.5 Haematocrit (%): 0-70	Open pack expiry: 6 months Test range (mmol/L): 0.6-33.3	Blood volume (µL): 0.5 (glucose), 0.8 (ketone) Haematocrit (%): 10-70 (glucose), 20-60 (ketone)	Open pack expiry: 12 months Test range (mmol/L): 1.1-33.3 (glucose), 0.1-8.0 (ketone)	Blood volume (µL): 0.7 Haematocrit (%): 20-70	Open pack expiry: 12 months Test range (mmol/L): 0.6-33.3
Neon Diagnostics Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 932 297 or Email: info@neondiagnosics.ie Patient supports: www.neondiagnosics.ie		Cambridge Sensors Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1850 211 896 or Email: sales@microdot.biz Patient supports: www.microdot.biz		Medicon Ireland Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 709 903 or Email: customerservice@mediconire.com Patient supports: www.mediconire.com		Ypsomed Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 911 522 or Email: info@ypsomed.co.uk Patient supports: www.mylife-diabetescare.com	
Finetest Lite Meter memory: 500 App: No		Microdot Max Meter memory: 500 App: Yes		Glucomen Area Meter memory: 730 App: Yes		MyLife Unio Cara Meter memory: 1000 App: Yes	
Finetest Lite Smart Meter memory: 500 App: Yes		Microdot Max Meter memory: 500 App: Yes		Glucomen Area 2K Meter memory: 730 App: Yes		MyLife Unio Neva Meter memory: 1000 App: Yes	
Compatible with: 4sure B-ketone strips (97605) €11.22		Note: consult supplier for compatible devices		Compatible with: Glucomen Area B ketone sensors (85140) €11.24		Contact supplier for a list of compatible insulin pumps	
4Sure blood glucose test strips (94170) €11.22 Blood volume (µL): 0.5 (glucose), 0.8 (ketone) Haematocrit (%): 0-70 (glucose), 10-70 (ketone)		GlucorX HCT glucose test strips (85139) €11.27 Open pack expiry: up to 24 months (expiry not affected by opening)		GlucorX HCT Connect/ (TD-4140b) Memory: Unlimited (with App) App: Yes Note: consult supplier for compatible devices		GlucorX Nexus test strips (85120) €11.27 Blood volume (µL): 0.5 (glucose), 0.8 (ketone) Haematocrit (%): 30-60 (glucose), 0.1-8.0 (ketone)	
Clonmel Healthcare TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 26 26 26 or Email: salesorders@clonmel-health.ie Patient supports: www.nipiro-group.com/en-en/products		Windzor Pharma Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 01 6950401 or Email: info@windzorpharma.com Patient supports: www.glucorx.ie		GlucorX HCT Connect (TD-4140) Memory: Unlimited (with App) App: Yes Note: consult supplier for compatible devices		Windzor Pharma Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 01 6950401 or Email: info@windzorpharma.com Patient supports: www.glucorx.ie	
4Sure SMART Meter memory: 1000 App: Yes		GlucorX HCT (TD-4279) Meter memory: 1000 App: No		GlucorX HCT Connect (TD-4140) Memory: Unlimited (with App) App: Yes Note: consult supplier for compatible devices		GlucorX Nexus Ultra (TD-4141) Meter memory: 1000 App: Yes	
4Sure SMART DUO Meter memory: 1000 App: Yes		GlucorX HCT (TD-4279) Meter memory: 1000 App: No		GlucorX HCT Connect (TD-4140b) Memory: Unlimited (with App) App: Yes Note: consult supplier for compatible devices		GlucorX Nexus Mini Voice (TD-4280) Meter memory: 450 App: No	
Accu-Chek Mobile test cassette (50) (85543) €11.81 Blood volume (µL): 0.3-0.5 Haematocrit (%): 25-55		Contour Next blood glucose test strips (15963) €14.30 Open pack expiry: up to 24 months (expiry not affected by opening)		Contour Next One Meter memory: 800 App: Yes		Contour Next Link 2.4 Meter memory: 1000 App: No	
Open pack expiry: 3 months (once in meter) Test range (mmol/L): 0.6-33.3		Open pack expiry: up to 24 months (expiry not affected by opening) Test range (mmol/L): 0-70		Open pack expiry: up to 24 months (expiry not affected by opening) Test range (mmol/L): 0.6-33.3		Open pack expiry: 6 months Test range (mmol/L): 1.1-33.3	
Roche Diabetes Care Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 931 078 or Email: Burgesshill.d.caccountmanagers@roche.com Patient supports: www.accu-chek.ie		Ascensia Diabetes Care Ireland Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1890 920 111 or Email: diabetesupport@ascensia.com Patient supports: www.diabetes.ascensia.ie		Ascensia Diabetes Care Ireland Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 911 522 or Email: info@ascensia.com Patient supports: www.ascensia.com		Lifescan Ireland Ltd. TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 535 676 Patient supports: www.myonetouch.ie	
Accu-Chek Mobile Meter memory: 2000 App: Yes		Contour Next One Meter memory: 480 App: No		Contour XT Meter memory: 480 App: No		One Touch Verio Reflect Meter memory: 750 App: Yes	
Compatible with: 4sure B-ketone strips (97605) €11.22		Note: consult supplier for compatible devices		Compatible with: Glucomen Area B ketone sensors (85140) €11.24		Contact supplier for a list of compatible insulin pumps	
Meters with ketone testing, insulin pump compatibility and 'talking' capability as per coding: Blue: Compatible with ketone testing		Meters with ketone testing, insulin pump compatibility and 'talking' capability as per coding: Orange: Compatible with insulin Pumps		Meters with ketone testing, insulin pump compatibility and 'talking' capability as per coding: Pink: 'Talking' capability		Meters with ketone testing, insulin pump compatibility and 'talking' capability as per coding: Purple: Compatible with insulin Pumps	
This list is a guide only and is not exhaustive. It is based on information submitted to the MMP by suppliers during the evaluation process. Healthcare professional clinical judgement should be used when choosing a suitable meter for individuals. Images are for illustrative purposes only. Please refer to individual suppliers for further information.		TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 911 522 or Email: info@ypsomed.co.uk Patient supports: www.mylife-diabetescare.com		TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 911 522 or Email: info@ypsomed.co.uk Patient supports: www.mylife-diabetescare.com		TO ORDER FREE METERS Phone: 1800 911 522 or Email: info@ypsomed.co.uk Patient supports: www.mylife-diabetescare.com	