

Weight loss injections now available across England on the NHS

London, UK – 3rd September 2024 – [Oviva](#), the UK's largest weight management services provider to the NHS, today announces it is now able to provide weight loss injections (GLP-1s) on the NHS as part of its specialist weight management programme, to eligible patients from all over England who have been referred by their GP.

This major development offers hope for the 4.2 million people eligible for specialist weight management support. From today, people living with obesity will have the opportunity to receive weight loss injections at no cost, removing the access barriers surrounding these innovative new treatments. This type of support and medication has previously been difficult for people to access through the NHS, with limited availability of only 35,000 places that are subject to a postcode lottery.

This announcement offers a lifeline to people who may be living with obesity and unable to access weight management support or NICE-approved weight management medications via the NHS. Under the NHS Constitution, patients have a legal right to choose the consultant-led team that delivers their care under the Right to Choose.

To check eligibility for the service, Oviva is encouraging people to visit its website (www.oviva.com/uk/en). There, people can check if they are eligible and get advice on how to contact their GP to discuss a referral to [Oviva's Tier 3 Weight Management Programme](#).

This announcement is a major step towards tackling the obesity crisis. Almost two-thirds of the English population are classed as overweight or obese, which is costing the NHS a staggering £19 billion per year. Obesity is the second leading cause of cancer behind smoking, the primary cause of Type 2 diabetes, and is associated with over 200 other conditions, including heart attacks and strokes. Despite its impact, fewer than 1 in 100 eligible people have been able to access NHS specialist weight management treatment per year.

"By increasing access to specialist weight management services, we are taking a significant step towards reducing obesity and its burden on individuals, the NHS and the wider economy. The launch of this service under Right to Choose combats the two-tier health system that has developed, where only those who can afford to pay out-of-pocket can access these potentially life-saving medications - that is not right," said Martin Fidock, UK Managing Director at Oviva.

Oviva's fully remote programme includes personalised dietary and psychological support centred on helping people make healthy lifestyle changes that last.

"New weight loss injections are a game-changer but are not a magic wand. If taken in isolation, they do not address the underlying factors that improve your health or well-being. Oviva's holistic approach is delivered by an expert multidisciplinary team and encompasses diet, exercise, lifestyle and mental health support. This empowers individuals to make sustainable changes and achieve lasting success." said Keren Miller, Global Clinical Lead at Oviva

To learn more about how to access Oviva's weight management programme, visit www.oviva.com. Here, you can take a short survey to find out your eligibility and receive resources to use to speak to your GP.

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible for Specialist Weight Management services, patients must have a body mass index (BMI) of at least 30.0 (27.5 for those in an ethnic minority group) combined with a weight-related health condition such as Type 2 diabetes or hypertension, or BMI of 50 or more without any weight-related health conditions [[NICE CG189](#)].

To be eligible for GLP-1s, patients must have a BMI of at least 35.0 (32.5 for people from South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African or African-Caribbean family backgrounds) and at least 1 weight-related comorbidity [[NICE TA875](#)].

ABOUT Oviva

Oviva, a trusted and CQC-registered NHS provider, has led the way in digitally enabled weight management programmes since 2014. Oviva has assisted over 500,000 people worldwide in managing various health conditions, including weight management and Type 2 diabetes. With a medical device-certified app, Oviva empowers patients to self-monitor their diet, physical activity and weight, facilitating seamless communication with their care team via chat and offering valuable educational content. This app-based care approach not only supports individuals in achieving healthier lifestyles but also looks to reduce the burden on doctors and generate significant savings for the healthcare system.

Oviva's Specialist Tier 3 Weight Management programme spans 6-24 months and can include weight loss injections, depending on patient eligibility and preference. Every patient receives a comprehensive, personalised treatment plan that provides guidance on symptom management, optimised food choices, and exercise. Oviva's holistic, clinically-led solution supports patients in making healthy lifestyle changes that last.

For more information, please contact the Oviva press office by emailing oviva@thephagroup.com

References:

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN03336/SN03336.pdf>

<https://www.diabetes.co.uk/news/2023/dec/britains-obesity-epidemic-is-costing-100-billion-a-year.html#:~:text=Ministers%20are%20being%20urged%20to,%25%2C%20the%20study%20has%20reported>