

Interim Policy Statement NHS Prescribing of Wegovy® (Semaglutide) and Mounjaro® (Tirzepatide) for Weight Management in South West London

This interim policy statement sets out South West London Integrated Care Board (SWL ICB) criteria for access to NICE-approved weight management medicines:

- [Semaglutide \(Wegovy®\) \[NICE TA875\]](#)
- [Tirzepatide \(Mounjaro®\) \[NICE TA1026\]](#)

It is aligned with [NHS England Interim Commissioning Guidance](#) and the SWL Specialist Weight Management Service (SWMS) specification, which was developed based on [the joint position statement by the Society for Endocrinology and Obesity Management Collaborative UK](#) alongside clinical experts and weight management services across SWL.

Principles for Prescribing in SWL

- **Equitable Access:** People living with obesity who meet SWL criteria should have fair access to treatment.
- **Clinical Prioritisation:** Prescribers should adopt a case-finding approach to identify those with highest clinical need first.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Prescribing and service costs must remain within allocated budgets.

Eligibility Criteria during phase 1

Criteria to access Semaglutide (Wegovy®):

- BMI of 35 or more, or 32.5kg/m² for people from South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African or African-Caribbean ethnic backgrounds
AND
- At least 1 weight-related co-morbidity
AND
- One of the following:
 - Patients requiring urgent weight loss for organ transplant
 - Idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH) requiring frequent lumbar punctures and/or with visual compromise
 - Patients undergoing planned time-sensitive surgery for life-limiting conditions, where high BMI is the primary barrier to surgery and weight loss would be beneficial. (Including bariatric surgery, for which the BMI must be ≤ 60 kg/m² to proceed).
 - Weight loss required for assisted conception in individuals under the care of a NHS fertility service, in cases where weight loss would be beneficial*
 - Severe obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA), obesity hypoventilation syndrome (OHS) – under specialist
 - Severe asthma – under specialist

- Proven genetic cause of obesity and not eligible for Setmelanotide (Imcivree®)

*Note: contraception is required while taking Wegovy® ahead of planned assisted contraception.

Criteria to access Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®):

- BMI of 40 or 37.5kg/m² for people from South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African or African-Caribbean ethnic backgrounds
AND
- 4 or more of the following health conditions (comorbidities):
 - Type 2 diabetes
 - High blood Pressure
 - Atherosclerotic heart disease (Ischaemic heart disease)
 - Sleep apnoea
 - Dyslipidaemia (abnormal blood fats)

The timelines for the subsequent phases will be communicated in updates of this policy.

Exclusion Criteria

- Under 18 years
- Pregnant or breastfeeding
- Active eating disorders
- Bariatric surgery within past 12 months
- Previous Tier 3 attendance within last 2 years
- Unstable mental health, alcohol/drug use, hypothyroidism or Cushing's syndrome

Access Pathway

Wegovy® (Semaglutide)

- **Referral:** GPs refer eligible patients to SWMS for assessment and initiation of treatment.
- **Prescribing:** At present, the prescribing of Wegovy will be undertaken by specialist weight management services only.

Mounjaro® (Tirzepatide)

- **Primary Care:** Practices signed up to the SWL LES for tirzepatide can initiate for eligible patients as per NHSE commissioning guidance priority cohorts.
- **Referral:** GPs to refer complex patients (from above cohorts) not suitable for primary care initiation for assessment and initiation of treatment to SWMS after seeking advice and guidance.

Approved by NHS South West London ICB Executive Committee – October 2025