

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 \(NHSE\) 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. From June 2026, the policy incorporates implementation of cohort 2 as defined by NHSE, alongside continuation of cohort 1 for tirzepatide.

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®):

Patients will be eligible for tirzepatide treatment if they meet both NICE criteria and local prioritisation requirements as outlined below (i.e. **Cohort 1**):

- 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)

From June 2026, the eligibility criteria have been expanded to include **Cohort 2**. This includes individuals with a BMI between 35–39.9 (adjusted for ethnicity) who also have four or more qualifying comorbidities. Therefore, anyone with a BMI of 35 or above and at least four qualifying criteria is now eligible.

Eligibility will further expand to include **Cohort 3 from spring 2027**, subject to system capacity and in line with NHS England guidance, following the phased implementation of Cohort 2. Cohort 3 will comprise individuals with three or more qualifying comorbidities and a BMI of 40 or above (adjusted for ethnicity). Delivery to Cohort 3 will run for a **15-month period**. During this time, services will continue to be provided to individuals who meet the criteria for Cohorts 1 and 2.

Further cohorts (if defined by NHSE) will be incorporated through subsequent policy updates.

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

From April 2026, obesity management is incorporated into the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QoF) through two new indicators. As a result, the SWL Local Enhanced

Service (LES) supporting tirzepatide prescribing in primary care will be retired. Access arrangements for semaglutide (Wegovy®) remain unchanged.

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 can initiate for eligible patients as per NHSE commissioning guidance priority cohorts.

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

IMOC review and update June 2026