



➤ **Prescribing and supply of oral semaglutide products**

The NHS commissions Rybelsus® (semaglutide) solely for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). On 11 June 2026, the MHRA licensed an oral tablet version of Wegovy® (semaglutide) for weight loss and weight management – the first licensed GLP-1 Receptor Agonist tablet for these indications in the UK. NICE discontinued its appraisal for oral Wegovy in May 2025. Oral Wegovy is therefore not routinely available on the NHS and can currently only be accessed through private prescribing.

Both Rybelsus® and oral Wegovy® contain semaglutide and are available in similar tablet strengths, but healthcare professionals should not use these as substitutes for one another. If a patient presents in NHS primary care seeking a prescription for oral Wegovy® for weight management, Rybelsus® should not be prescribed as it is not approved for weight loss and weight management.

Inappropriate prescribing of Rybelsus for weight management could place significant pressure on supplies intended for people with T2DM. The manufacturer has advised that supply planning is based on expected demand within its licensed indication for T2DM.

➤ **Discontinuation of some BD and Novofine needles**

The following needles have been discontinued and removed from the Drug Tariff. These brands of needles are not included in the Northamptonshire formulary. Prescriptions should be changed to a formulary equivalent needle. [Northamptonshire Pen Needle and Safety Needle Device Guidelines](#).

- BD AutoShield Duo 5mm/30 gauge
- BD Micro-Fine Ultra 4mm/32 gauge
- BD Micro-Fine Ultra 5mm/31 gauge
- NovoFine 8mm/30 gauge
- NovoFine Autocover 8mm/30 gauge

Safety needles should not normally be prescribed by GPs. These are for the benefit of healthcare workers to avoid needle stick injury and therefore they should not be prescribed on FP10. They should be provided by the employer of the staff administering the injection as protective equipment.

The exceptions to this are:

- patients whose insulin is administered by a carer or relative **AND**
- where the patient is known to have a blood born virus e.g. HIV, hepatitis **OR** who is known to be aggressive

➤ **Medicines Safety Week – 2nd to 8th November**

#MedSafetyWeek is a social media campaign that takes place annually in November. The theme this year is 'side effects - don't ignore them, report them'. The key message being there are many different types of side effects and if you think you're experiencing a side effect, do not suffer in silence – report it. Practices and pharmacies are encouraged to get involved on social media and help raise awareness locally using the materials from the [Yellow Card Medicines Safety Week website](#).