



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil  
Bealach amach 5 an M50  
An Bóthar Thuaidh  
Fionnghlas  
Baile Átha Cliath 11  
D11 XKF3

Health Service Executive  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
Exit 5, M50  
North Road  
Finglas  
Dublin 11  
D11 XKF3

Guthán: (01) 864 7100  
Facs: (01) 834 3589

Tel: (01) 864 7100  
Fax: (01) 834 3589

Circular 012/16

21 March 2016

Dear Doctor,

The National Clinical Programme for Diabetes has provided updated guidance on self testing for people with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. Research has indicated that blood glucose testing has a limited benefit for many patients who **do not** take insulin to manage their diabetes. Based on best evidence, the HSE is introducing changes to the number of blood glucose test strips it will provide for people with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus while ensuring those who need test strips to help manage their diabetes will continue to have access to them. The new changes are based on recommendations from a review by the Medicines Management Programme (MMP). This review looked at international evidence and best practice guidelines along with national usage (available on [www.HSE.ie/yourmedicines](http://www.HSE.ie/yourmedicines)).

This initiative will reduce unnecessary consumption of test strips by funding their supply based on best practice guidelines while ensuring that those who need test strips to help manage their diabetes will continue to have access to them.

The National Clinical Programme for Diabetes has developed a leaflet on this initiative, a copy of which is enclosed. It can be downloaded from <http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/clinical/natclinprog/diabetesprogramme/Selftesting/>. Further copies can be ordered from [www.healthpromotion.ie](http://www.healthpromotion.ie) to assist patients to understand the Guidelines.

The HSE will be implementing the recommendations from 1 April 2016. If you believe that any of your patients should receive reimbursement support for more than the recommended quantity of testing strips, you can register specific patients for exceptional arrangements through the online system, smoothly accessible through the GP application suite.

The GP suite already has a link to 'special drug request' which now hosts further functionality to enable you to register patients for extra reimbursement support for diabetic strips:



## Doctor Application Suite

Username: [JC01 01](#)

Email address on your account is not unique ( [Change email](#) )

[Welcome](#) [Claiming](#) [Panel Management](#) [Account Details](#) [Reporting](#)

[Home](#)

[Claiming](#)

[Panel Management](#)

[Account Details](#)

[Reporting](#)

### Claiming

[Patient Dispensing Records](#)

[STCS/SS Claim Entry](#)

[STC/SS Visit Class File Load](#)

[STC/SS Claim File Load](#)

[OOH Time Change File Load](#)

[Vaccination Services](#)

[Special Drug Request](#)

To register specific patients for exceptional arrangements, please provide the following details online:

1. GMS number, LTI number or Drugs Payment Scheme Number (where a patient is recently diagnosed or does not qualify for an LTI Book)
2. The category of diabetes treatment currently prescribed for the patient which will automatically populate the recommended quantity of test strips for that category
3. The reason for additional quantities (pregnancy, job safety etc)
4. The number of test strips you wish the patient to access on a monthly basis.

Where the patient is registered for exceptional arrangements, the patient will be approved for the extra reimbursement support requested.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Marie Hoey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end of the last name.

Anne Marie Hoey  
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility

8 March 2016

## Reimbursement of Blood Glucose Test Strips (BGTS) for Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

Dear Colleagues

The Medicines Management Programme (MMP) has recently reviewed international literature, guidelines and recommendations for self-monitoring of Blood Glucose (SMBG) for patients with non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus. The National Clinical Programme for Diabetes (NCPD) has also recently published guidance on self-testing for people with Type 2 diabetes. The HSE, under the guidance of the Medicines Management Programme (MMP) and the NCPD, has updated its reimbursement arrangements for blood glucose test strips (BGTS). The MMP report is available on [www.hse.ie/yourmedicines](http://www.hse.ie/yourmedicines) along with Frequently Asked Questions for healthcare professionals and patients. The NCPD guidance on self-testing for people with Type 2 diabetes can be downloaded from <http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/clinical/natclinprog/diabetesprogramme/Selftesting/> or ordered from [www.healthpromotion.ie](http://www.healthpromotion.ie) to assist patients to understand the guidelines.

Following this review the MMP recommends that reimbursement of the Blood Glucose Test Strips for patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus be revised as follows:

- **There will be no limit for patients treated with insulin.**
- **Patients managed on sulphonylurea or meglitinide drugs will be reimbursed for 2 boxes of test strips per month i.e. 1,200 test strips/annum.**
- **Patients managed on oral hypoglycaemic drugs other than sulphonylurea or meglitinide drugs will be reimbursed for 1 box of test strips per month i.e. 600 test strips/annum.**
- **Patients managed through diet alone will be reimbursed for 2 boxes of test strips per annum i.e. 100 test strips/annum.**

The recommendation was accepted by the HSE for implementation from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

It is appreciated that there are clinical situations where enhanced blood glucose monitoring may be required (e.g. acute illness, therapy changes, pregnancy) and in such cases extra reimbursement support is available via an on-line application system through the GP application suite. This service is available to allow immediate access to additional test strips reimbursed under the community drugs schemes.

With best wishes,



Prof Michael Barry  
**National Clinical Lead, Medicines Management Programme**  
<http://www.hse.ie/yourmedicines>