

19 September 2018

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE**

Dear Requester

### **FOI Reference Number: 18603**

I refer to your email of 30 August requesting information in respect of freestyle libre.

I can confirm on behalf of NHS Norwich CCG and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold information relevant to that you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below:

#### **Clarified Request dated 30 August (previous request below)**

*The reason for my email is the fact that flash is not at this moment in time free in prescription in Norwich*

*There are a number of areas in the UK which now have the libre flash technology free on prescription including London where a certain Mrs May lives. I don't have over £100/month to pay for this technology that would change my life no end by making it easier to keep my blood sugars under control.*

***All I want to know is when NOT if Norwich will have this great technology free on prescription***

#### **Response**

I can confirm that Freestyle Libre will be available on the NHS in Norfolk and Waveney and it will be made available through secondary care i.e. not for primary care prescribing. The date of availability is not yet known.

#### **Request dated 22 August**

*I am writing to ask about if Flash Glucose Monitoring/FreeStyle Libre technology is unavailable on prescription in NHS Norwich CCG.*

*I am aware that West Essex CCG have published this guidance (<https://t.co/aLF8IY4ch9>) in line with the emerging new East region PAC guidance. However there is no clear position as to whether you are following this guidance.*

*A Flash GM device, the FreeStyle Libre, was included on the drug tariff on 1st November 2017.*

*Flash is currently available on prescription in Northern Ireland and Wales. It is also available in over 50% of areas in England and Scotland. To fund it privately, it costs over £100 a month.*

*Flash has been shown to improve diabetes management. Improved management could lead to fewer complications and fewer expensive ambulance callouts and hospital admissions. More importantly, Flash also improves people's quality of life, allowing them to easily test themselves or those they care for.*

*I understand that there are significant budgetary pressures in the NHS. However, the Freestyle device is cost effective for people with diabetes who are treated with insulin and testing frequently. It has also been firmly established that tight glycaemic control in people with diabetes is associated with a significant reduction in serious and costly long-term diabetes related complications. Therefore focusing spend on areas like Flash GM, which gives people the tools to manage their diabetes more effectively must therefore be an absolute priority.*

*Please could you let me know whether you are following the guidance West Essex are and prescribing Flash?*

I hope that you too see the benefit in Flash GM technology and will support access to those people with diabetes who can benefit from using it.

I hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to

Arden & GEM CSU  
FOI Team, Room 18  
Scarsdale  
Newbold Road  
Chesterfield  
S41 7PF

Email [agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneycgs@nhs.net](mailto:agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneycgs@nhs.net)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided the CCG.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, telephone 0303 123 1113, email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

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Yours faithfully

**FOI Manager  
Arden & GEM CSU**

**On behalf of  
NHS Norwich CCG**