

# Practice update

October 2024

## Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs) and Insulin Pumps

### Background

From 1 October 2024 Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM) are funded for certain types of insulin dependent diabetes patients. At the same time Pharmac are also widening access to insulin pumps and consumables.

### CGM

CGMs track glucose levels over time by measuring the glucose levels in the interstitial fluid around the probe (which stays in place just under the skin). These systems can help healthcare teams improve the management of patients' diabetes and have the ability to share stored data. Any prescriber in the diabetes care team, including both primary and secondary care, can apply for a Special Authority and can also prescribe all CGMs.

PHARMAC are funding two types of standalone CGMS for all patients with type 1 or type 3c diabetes (including insulin deficiency caused by pancreatectomy, insulin cystic fibrosis or pancreatitis):

- [Freestyle Libre 2 \(standalone\)](#)
- [Dexcom ONE+ \(standalone\)](#)

A comparison chart for the two standalone CGMs can be found [here](#).

PHARMAC are also funding three CGMs which work alongside insulin pumps, for those patients with funded access to insulin pumps. This provides the ability for an automated insulin delivery system (hybrid closed loop):

- [Dexcom G6 \(works with both funded pumps\)](#)
- [Dexcom G7 \(works with the Tandem pump\)](#)
- Abbott Freestyle Libre 3 (works with the YpsoPump and Tandem pump by July 2025) – more details will be available at a later date.

For more information about CGM that work with insulin pumps see [here](#).

### Insulin pumps

Insulin pumps deliver a continuous basal insulin infusion along with bolus doses as required. PHARMAC will fund two insulin pumps and associated consumables, for those people whose diabetes specialist team have determined will benefit from an insulin pump or automated insulin delivery system, and who have:

1. type 1 diabetes
2. permanent neonatal diabetes
3. some types of “monogenic diabetes” with insulin deficiency
4. type 3c diabetes (includes insulin deficiency caused by pancreatectomy, insulin cystic fibrosis or pancreatitis)
5. some atypical inherited forms of diabetes

The full Special Authority criteria can be found [here](#).

The currently funded insulin pump (Medtronic MiniMed 770G) will no longer be funded for people new to insulin pumps from 1 January 2026, and the consumables associated with this pump will not be funded from 1 October 2026. People currently using this pump will need to transition to one of the newly funded alternatives. The currently funded [Tandem t:slim x2 \(with Basal or Control IQ automated insulin delivery system software\)](#) will continue to be funded. PHARMAC will also be funding the [mylife YpsoPump \(with CamAPS FX automated insulin delivery system software\)](#).

Any prescriber in the diabetes care team, including primary and secondary care, can provide ongoing prescriptions and Special Authorities for insulin pump consumables once the pump therapy has been commenced by secondary care.

## What does this mean for my patients?

CGM standalone	
My patient is being managed by secondary care, already self - funding CGM, and will now be eligible for funding.	CGM can be prescribed in primary care. There will be no change in the patient's diabetes management otherwise.
My patient wants to start CGM and will now be eligible for funding.	<p>CGM can be initiated in primary care. The expectation is the prescriber is responsible for follow up.</p> <p>The patient needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have a phone that supports the app, or access to a reader</li> <li>• be connected to the clinician's portal; or if using the reader, be able to visit the practice regularly to have the reader downloaded.</li> <li>• have had appropriate training to ensure the patient knows how to use the technology.</li> </ul> <p>The prescriber needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have access to the clinician portal online and/or ability to download the reader.</li> <li>• a plan to review measurements.</li> </ul> <p>Online training on the FreeStyle Libre 2 and the cloud-based management system (LibreView) can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>More information about the Dexcom ONE + and the cloud-based management system (Clarity) can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Patients can also be referred to secondary care as per usual pathway.</p>
CGM and hybrid closed loop	
My patient is being managed by secondary care, on an insulin pump and already self - funding CGM	For patients on hybrid closed loops insulin pumps that are merely awaiting funding for the CGM sensors, that they already pay for and use, this could be prescribed in primary care. Monitoring and management would continue to be under secondary care as needed.
Insulin pump	
My patient wants to start on an insulin pump.	Patients need to be referred to secondary care service.

### Tools available:

- [Resources for health care professionals - Pharmac | Te Pātaka Whaioranga | NZ Government](#)
- [Insulin Pumps - Community Health Pathways Te Matau a Māui | Hawke's Bay](#)
- [Starship - Glucose monitoring systems](#)
- More details about insulin pumps, accessories and special authority criteria is available on [NZF](#).

### Training available

- **Hawke's Bay Pharmacy and Primary Care CE programme:** Chris Davidson, Diabetes CNS, will deliver an education session on CGM and insulin pumps and how the Pharmac changes will practically impact Hawke's Bay patients. The session is scheduled for 8 October at 6.30 – 8pm and will be held at the Education Centre at Hawke's Bay Fallen Soldiers Memorial Hospital. See [flyer](#). Please RSVP [here](#).
- **Goodfellow:** Webinar by Dr Tom Wilkinson on diabetes technology recording is available [here](#). Diabetes technology podcast by Ryal Paul is available [here](#).
- **Pharmaceutical Society (PSNZ):** Continuous Glucose Monitoring training webinars. More information can be found [here](#).
- **Dexcom:** Territory Business Manager, Thilaia Berryman will be in Hawke's Bay 7-9 October and 20-22 November. Please reach out to her via: [tberryman@nzms.co.nz](mailto:tberryman@nzms.co.nz) or 027 326 5974 to book training for your practice or pharmacy.
- **Mediray (Freestyle Libre):** Territory Business Manager, Theresa Davies. Please reach out to her via: [Theresa@mediray.co.nz](mailto:Theresa@mediray.co.nz) or 027 278 6671 to book training for your practice or pharmacy.

**Authored by:** Riani Albertyn

**Acknowledgements:** Thanks to Chris Davidson, Rebecca Simpson, Megan Adie, Brendan Duck and Rachael McNeil for content contribution and guidance.

**Disclaimer:** The information and advice contained in this document is based upon evidence from available resources at our disposal at the time of publication, and reflects best practice. However, this information is not a substitute for clinical judgment and individualised medical advice. Health Hawke's Bay accepts no responsibility or liability for consequences arising from use of this information.