

# Scottish Government submission of 6 July 2023

## PE2031/A: Provide insulin pumps to all children with type 1 diabetes in Scotland

### **Policy context**

Diabetes is a clinical priority for the Scottish Government and we are committed to improving the care and outcomes for everyone living with diabetes.

In February 2021, we published a refresh of the [Diabetes Improvement Plan](#). The Plan outlines our commitments for diabetes care in Scotland and sets out an ambitious programme of work to deliver the aims and priorities of providing safe, effective and person-centred care, treatment and support to everyone living with diabetes in Scotland.

The Plan outlines eight priority areas and a focused set of actions overseen by the Scottish Diabetes Group. The priority areas are:

- Prevention and Early Detection of Diabetes and its Complications
- Type 1 Diabetes
- Person-Centred Care
- Equity of Access
- Supporting and Developing Staff
- Inpatient Diabetes
- Improving Information
- Innovation

Through the delivery of our Plan, we are committed to designing and developing services that meet the needs of everyone living with diabetes, with a focus on those that are experiencing health inequalities.

### **Diabetes Technologies**

The Scottish Government is aware that the management of diabetes can be challenging, especially for children and younger people. We are committed to ensuring that people in Scotland living with diabetes can access clinically appropriate, safe, effective, and person-centred healthcare, treatment and support.

Diabetes technologies are a rapidly evolving area and we aim to ensure that everyone who would benefit from them have access at the earliest opportunity.

Our Diabetes Improvement Plan contains a key commitment to further increase access to existing and emerging diabetes technologies that can significantly benefit people with Type 1 diabetes and improve their quality of life.

Our national approach is to support the increase in provision of insulin pumps and Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM) for people of all ages who would benefit. We have provided additional funding to Boards to ensure timely and affordable access to such technologies.

### **National Clinical Guidelines**

It is a key recommendation in National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) that patients with frequent and or severe hypoglycaemia should be considered for insulin pump therapy as part of their treatment for diabetes. A link to the appropriate guidelines can be found at:

- NICE insulin pump guidelines: [insulin-pump-therapy-for-diabetes-pdf-374892589 \(nice.org.uk\)](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/374892589);
- SIGN insulin pump guidelines: (page 34, 5.3.2): <https://www.sign.ac.uk/assets/sign116.pdf>

In June 2022, NICE updated their guidance for the management of diabetes in children and young people. They recommend that all children and young people with type 1 diabetes should have access to CGM. A link to their updated recommendation can be found at: [Overview | Diabetes \(type 1 and type 2\) in children and young people: diagnosis and management | Guidance | NICE](#).

### **Additional funding provided to NHS Boards to increase access to diabetes technologies**

Between 2016 and 2021, the Scottish Government invested £15 million of additional funding to specifically support the increased provision of insulin pumps and CGM. A further £14.6 million was allocated in January 2022 to support increased access to diabetes technologies including closed loop systems.

It is important to note that this funding was in addition to, and not a replacement for, local budgets, and NHS Boards are expected to continue to fund provision locally to meet the needs of their local populations.

We also work closely the Diabetes Managed Clinical Networks (MCNs) within each board, including NHS Highland, to identify and resolve any issues raised by NHS Boards regarding accessing diabetes technologies to ensure that all resource is targeted to support the needs of local populations.

### **Accelerated National Adoption Pathway**

We do recognise that there are still significant challenges for NHS Boards to provide technology to everyone who would benefit from it. We know that workforce capacity remains an issue across several boards and so have initiated the partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Delivery to tackle this directly.

The Accelerated National Innovation Adoption (ANIA) pathway team will support the roll out of diabetes technology, and in particular closed loop systems, as an innovation challenge. There has been significant engagement with the diabetes community and stakeholders have shared their views on the benefits of closed loop systems. A key focus of this project is reducing regional variation and making access to technology more equitable across Scotland.

Through the ANIA pathway workstream, the Scottish Government has invested a further £350,000 to accelerate the distribution of Closed Loop Systems. Closed Loop Systems are considered the most significant development in diabetes treatment in recent years and can transform lives, particularly for children and young people.

This investment will see a dedicated team created to support NHS health boards to rollout the technology faster and more efficiently across Scotland.

### **Conclusion**

I hope this information provides the committee with assurances that the Scottish Government is committed to increasing access to diabetes technologies to all who would benefit. We will continue to work with key partners and stakeholders including third sector to ensure that everyone

living with diabetes in Scotland is able to access these important technologies.