

NHS Forth Valley submission of 19 October 2023

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

Thank you for your letter of 21 September 2023, seeking information on the provision of insulin pumps to children with type 1 diabetes in NHS Forth Valley.

In Forth Valley, access to insulin pump therapy is provided in line with the criteria provided in NICE guideline [NG18] Diabetes (type 1 and type 2) in children and young people: diagnosis and management. All children with type 1 diabetes are eligible to use an insulin pump if the family wishes this and they are able to use it consistently and safely (after training).

The Forth Valley specialist diabetes team has reviewed our local information. As of 28 September 2023, Forth Valley had a total of 186 children under the age of 16 years with type 1 diabetes. 155 of these children are currently using insulin pump therapy, which is approximately 83%. Please note that these numbers can vary slightly on a month-to-month basis.

The use of insulin pumps in the Forth Valley paediatric population is increasing year on year, and Forth Valley currently sits above the Scottish average.

It is recognised that starting and looking after children on insulin pumps requires intensive support, which can be a challenge to services across Scotland. The waiting time in Forth Valley for a child wishing to commence insulin pump therapy is currently well below 6 months.

I hope that this provides the information requested. However, if you have any further questions then please let me know.