

Information for the public

Dapagliflozin given with other drugs for type 2 diabetes

NICE 'technology appraisal guidance' advises on when and how drugs and other treatments should be used in the NHS.

This document is about when **dapagliflozin** should be used with other drugs to treat people with type 2 diabetes in the NHS in England and Wales. It explains guidance (advice) from NICE (the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence). It does not cover using dapagliflozin on its own to treat type 2 diabetes. It is written for people with type 2 diabetes but it may also be useful for their families or carers or for anyone with an interest in the condition.

It does not describe diabetes or the treatments in detail – a member of your healthcare team should discuss these with you. You can get more information from the organisations listed on page 5.

There are several possible treatments for type 2 diabetes. Your healthcare team should talk to you about the treatment options available.

What has NICE said?

NICE recommends dapagliflozin given with other drugs as a possible treatment for some people with type 2 diabetes (see below).

Who can have dapagliflozin?

If a person needs to take 2 antidiabetic drugs, dapagliflozin is recommended as a possible treatment for people with [type 2 diabetes](#) when taken with a drug called metformin, only if the person:

- cannot take a type of drug called a sulfonylurea or
- is at significant risk of [hypoglycaemia](#) or its consequences.

Dapagliflozin is recommended as a possible treatment taken with insulin, with or without other antidiabetic drugs

Why has NICE said this?

Dapagliflozin was recommended because it works as well as or better than other treatments available on the NHS, and is good value for money.

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

Type 2 diabetes

In diabetes the amount of glucose (sugar) in the blood is too high. Uncontrolled high blood glucose levels can lead to serious health problems. Insulin is a hormone produced by the body to control the level of glucose in the blood. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the body is unable to produce any insulin. Type 2 diabetes occurs when the body can still make some insulin but not enough, or when the body cannot use the insulin it produces properly (also known as insulin resistance).

Hypoglycaemia

Hypoglycaemia is an abnormally low level of sugar (glucose) in the blood. This can cause feelings of hunger, trembling or shakiness, and sweating. In more severe cases, there can also be confusion and difficulty concentrating. In some severe cases, the person experiencing hypoglycaemia will lose consciousness.

Dapagliflozin

Dapagliflozin (also known as Forxiga) works by stopping most of the glucose that enters the urine in the kidneys from passing back into the blood, so that it can be excreted (leave the body). It is taken as a tablet.

What does this mean for me?

When NICE recommends a treatment, the NHS must make sure it is available to those people it could help, normally within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

So, if you have type 2 diabetes, and you and your doctor think that dapagliflozin with metformin or dapagliflozin with insulin is the right treatment for you (see 'What has NICE said?' on page 2), you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS. Please see www.nice.org.uk/about if you think you are eligible for the treatment but it is not available.

If you are not eligible for treatment as described in 'What has NICE said' on page 2, you should be able to continue taking dapagliflozin until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with diabetes. NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

- BEMDA (Black and Ethnic Minority Diabetes Association), 0207 723 5357
www.bemda.org/index.html
- Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation, 02392 637808
www.drwf.org.uk
- Diabetes UK, 0845 120 2960 or 0207 742 4100
www.diabetes.org.uk
- South Asian Health Foundation, 0203 313 0677
www.sahf.org.uk

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more. If you live in Wales you should speak to NHS Direct Wales for information on who to contact.

About NICE

NICE provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care. The guidance is written by independent experts, including healthcare professionals and people representing patients and carers. They consider the evidence on the disease and treatments, the views of patients and carers and the experiences of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, and consider the costs involved. Staff working in the NHS are expected to follow this guidance.

To find out more about NICE, its work and how it reaches decisions, see <http://www.nice.org.uk/about>

This document and other versions of the guidance aimed at healthcare professionals are available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA288

We encourage NHS and voluntary organisations to use text from this document in their own information about type 2 diabetes.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-0195-1

JUN 13