

Diabetic Sundries Formulary and Prescribing Notes

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Consultation Process: Therapeutic Resource Group

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Preferred Meters and Compatible Test Strips

Group	Formulary Meter	Formulary Test Strips	Pip Code	Pack Size	Company and Support Contact
Type 2 Diabetes	AgaMatrix Agile Meter (1 st Line)	AgaMatrix Agile Blood Glucose Test Strip	4254355	50 strips	AgaMatrix customercare@agamatrix.co.uk
	* AgaMatrix WaveSense Jazz Meter (2 nd Line)	WaveSense Jazz Blood Glucose Test Strip	3401619	50 strips	
Type 1 Diabetes (or ketosis prone Type 2 diabetics)	4SURE Smart Duo Meter	4SURE Blood Glucose Test Strips	4083978	50 strips	Nipro diagnostics-uk@nipro-group.com
	Dual glucose and ketone meter.	4SURE β -ketone Test Strips	4083986	10 strips	
Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM)	AgaMatrix WaveSense Jazz WIRELESS Meter	WaveSense Jazz Blood Glucose Test Strip	3401619	50 strips	AgaMatrix customercare@agamatrix.co.uk
Visually Impaired	GlucorX Nexus Voice Talking Blood Glucose Meter	GlucorX Nexus Strips	3552726	50 strips	GlucorX info@glucorx.co.uk

Notes

- Diabetic meters are provided free of charge by the manufacturer, they should not be prescribed.
- A typical patient with type 1 diabetes may test their blood glucose up to 8 times per day, as such, they would require ~480 blood glucose test strips per 2-month period. Patients with type 2 diabetes or GDM may test their blood glucose around 4 times a day, making the required quantity on prescription ~240 blood glucose test strips per 2-month period. The frequency of testing will vary between patients.
- All patients with type 1 diabetes should be prescribed ketone test strips. Ketone test strips may also be required for some patients with other, less frequent forms of diabetes – however, this should only be under specialist direction. Ketone test strips should only be used infrequently, therefore prescriptions for ketone test strips should be limited to maximum of 20 ketone strips.
- Patients currently using Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) technology will still require a meter and a small supply of test strips. There may be certain circumstances where they are required to test, and it is recommended that they have a backup method of checking their blood glucose if a problem arises with their CGM device.
- Test strips should be added to repeat prescription with no reauthorisation limit. Testing frequency and test strip usage should be reviewed and discussed as part of a patient's annual diabetic review.

*2nd line option included for those who struggle with 1st line meter due to poorer eyesight and/or dexterity issues.

Preferred Lancets

Group	Formulary Product	Pip Code	Pack Size	Prescribing Comments
Type 2 Diabetes & Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM)	AgaMatrix Ultra-Thin 0.20mm/33-gauge Lancets	3420601	200	AgaMatrix Ultra-Thin lancets and the Trio lancing device are supplied in the WaveSense Jazz kit.
	AgaMatrix Ultra-Thin 0.35mm/28-gauge Lancets	3420627		AgaMatrix Comfort Twist lancets and the Lite lancing device are supplied in the Agile meter kit.
	AgaMatrix Comfort Twist 0.32mm/30-gauge Lancets	4254412	100	All AgaMatrix lancing devices and lancets are universal and are compatible with each other.
Type 1 Diabetes (or ketosis prone Type 2 diabetics)	4SURE 0.195mm/33-gauge Lancets	4084067	100	These lancets are considered compatible with most lancet devices (2).
	4SURE 0.32mm/30-gauge Lancets	4084075		
Visually Impaired	GlucoRx 0.31mm/30-gauge Lancets	3491354	200	GlucoRx lancets and lancing device are supplied in the GlucoRx Nexus Voice blood glucose meter kit.
Safety Lancets	GlucoRx Safety Lancets		100	
	1.6mm/30gauge	3958063		
	1.8mm/28gauge	3948767		
	1.8mm/26gauge	3948759		
	2.2mm/23gauge	3948742		

Notes

- Lancing devices are not prescribable on the NHS but will be provided free of charge by the manufacturer.
- Lancets vary in terms of size and thickness (or gauge). A higher-gauge lancet is thinner so is normally less painful, but it might not always give enough blood for a test sample. Lower-gauge lancets are required for people who don't produce enough blood for an adequate sample with a higher-gauge product, e.g. people with extremely thick skin or calloused hands (2).
- The quantity of lancets prescribed will be determined by the patient's testing frequency. Adults with T1DM, who are not using Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM), may routinely monitor their blood glucose level up to 8 times per day.
- Safety lancets should **only** be prescribed for people who receive support when checking their blood glucose level or for patients with dexterity issues. Safety lancets are designed, when activated, to fire a needle from the protective shield puncturing the skin before retracting automatically where they cannot be re-used and to minimise the risk of needle stick injuries. They do not require a lancing device for use (2).
- Lancets should be added to repeat prescription with no reauthorisation limit.

Preferred Needles for pre-filled and reusable pen injectors

Formulary Product	Pip Code	Pack Size
BD Viva Needles 4mm/32-gauge 5mm/31-gauge	3989415 3989423	90
GlucoRx Safety Pen Needles 5mm/30-gauge	4027017	100

Notes

- 4mm needles are considered to be the safest pen needle for insulin injection for adults and children regardless of age, gender and body mass index (BMI) as it minimises the risk of lipohypertrophy.
- Needles longer than 4mm should only be prescribed on the recommendation of a diabetes specialist. Changes to needle length should only be undertaken under direction and supervision of diabetes specialists.
- The needles are compatible with all pen delivery systems including injectable GLP1-RA devices.
- Safety needles should **only** be prescribed for people who receive support when injecting their medication (e.g. from family members, district nurses etc. or for patients with dexterity issues).
- Needles should be added to repeat prescription with no reauthorisation limit.

General Prescribing Notes

The purpose of this formulary and prescribing notes is to promote consistent and seamless care for patients within NHS Forth Valley and to ensure cost effective prescribing. The formulary options listed above have been chosen after a comprehensive review of the available products. There should be no reason for deviating from the formulary products outlined in this document. For further information or advice on blood glucose monitoring in diabetes, please contact the relevant specialist team as per below:

- For Type 1 Diabetes: fv.diabetesnursesfvr@nhs.scot
- For Type 2 Diabetes: fv.pct2diabetes@nhs.scot

Please note adults with type 2 diabetes should not routinely self-monitor their blood glucose levels unless (3):

- the person is on insulin **or**
- there is evidence of hypoglycaemic episodes **or**
- the person is on oral medication that may increase their risk of hypoglycaemia while driving or operating machinery **or**
- the person is pregnant or is planning to become pregnant

References

- 1) PrescQIPP: Diabetes pen needle prescribing for pre-filled and reusable insulin and GLP-1 receptor agonist pens (November 2024). Available at: <https://prescqipp.info/umbraco/surface/authorisedmediasurface/index?url=%2fmedia%2fixkbbqcb%2f229-insulin-pen-needles-20.pdf> (accessed 13/02/2025).
- 2) PrescQIPP: Lancets (September 2024). Available at: <https://prescqipp.info/umbraco/surface/authorisedmediasurface/index?url=%2fmedia%2f4dppx4s3%2f354-lancets-2-0.pdf> (accessed 13/02/2025).
- 3) NICE NG28: Type 2 diabetes in adults: management (June 2022). Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng28/chapter/Recommendations#blood-glucose-management> (accessed 13/02/2025).