

Dr Paul Gilluley Chief Medical Officer North East London Primary Care Central Team NHS North East London

26 June 2025

Dear Paul

Re. ICB communications regarding weight loss medication

We have raised the topic of the provision of obesity injections at the last two quarterly meetings. The new guidance is helpful but there are still huge restrictions on who can receive the injections and even those people eligible cannot do so without proper support, which at the moment does not exist in NEL. We are grateful that you are working towards commissioning these support services, but you agreed to provide information that GP practices could signpost patients to in the interim. Despite the recent media furore, this has not been forthcoming. The issue is creating increased demand on practices, and patients are frustrated with practice teams not being able to provide sufficient support.

We understand you have many other priorities, but the situation is now urgent as GPs are spending huge amounts of time discussing this with patients and they lack the necessary information to give to patients.

As the ICB website does not have the patient facing information that we requested six months ago, practices are reaching out to the LMCs for advice on what to do. We feel that we have no alternative but to advise practices to put information on their websites and develop emails and texts which will signpost to the ICB's enquiries email address. We will suggest the following messaging for Practice websites regarding weight loss medication queries:

'We are receiving many requests about the weight loss injections. We do not currently provide these at the practice and the local Integrated Care Board (ICB) is responsible for commissioning this service. We know that media coverage has stated that the injections are available from your GP, however this is for certain patients that meet very specific criteria only and currently there is no GP service in place in North East London for this – please visit NHS England » Weight management injections for further information. If you have any further queries, please direct them to <u>nelondonicb.enquiries@nhs.net</u>'

As an example, North Central London ICB has provided information for clinicians on their website regarding weight loss injections for some time <u>Update on prescribing guidance for Wegovy® and Mounjaro® in weight loss (GLP1 agonists) - NCL ICB General Practice Website</u> and have included helpful suggested wording for patient messaging.

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We would appreciate the ICB considers this issue as soon as possible to help alleviate the demand on General Practice teams and in the interim.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of Chairs and Vice Chairs, Londonwide LMCs

cc. Dr Ben Molyneux, Associate Medical Director of Primary Care, NEL ICB

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