

Our Ref: ID 2084

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## **Re: Freedom of Information Request - Saxenda**

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### **You Asked for:**

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is part of the Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee (APC). The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) TA664 for weight loss medication Saxenda was published in December 2020 and ratified at APC in January 2021. Funding for Saxenda was then approved at the Quality and Performance committee in February 2021.

However, over 12 months later, access to Saxenda for qualifying patients is still currently not available. This is because a pathway is still being developed with the provider for patients to receive it, as required, frustrating, patients, Doctors and Health Professionals alike.

Therefore, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), please provide the information requested below:

1. When will the pathway for providing Saxenda on the NHS for qualifying patients be operating on the Wirral?
2. What is being done to progress the Saxenda pathway currently?
3. Why has it taken over 12 months since financial approval was given to provide a Saxenda pathway and what is being done to overcome any delays?

### **Our Response:**

1. The meeting planned for April 2022 between the provider and NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will consider timescales for implementation of Saxenda in Wirral.
2. The provider has reviewed the Weight Management Pathway to include delivery of Saxenda. A meeting is planned to be held in April 2022 between the Tier 3 provider and NHS Wirral CCG to discuss the proposed pathway.
3. Although Pan Mersey guidance included the requirement for delivery of Saxenda, NHS Wirral CCG was informed in June 2021 of the changes and has worked with the provider to support implementation. A review of the pathway was required to support requirements for implementation, including working with the Consultant who provided clinical

leadership for the service to develop an Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach and ensure prescribing, acceptance criteria and pathway length. The service pressures emphasised by the COVID-19 pandemic impacted on the services clinical time to focus on developing the pathway, whilst not impacting on patient waiting times for Tier 3 services.

We hope this information is useful, however, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team, (contact details at the top of this letter).

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