

9 November 2025 (#6)

## Patient Safety Advisory

### Action required: Rybelsus® (oral semaglutide): risk of medication error due to introduction of new formulation

Message from BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL ICB

Communications regarding the replacement of all strengths of Rybelsus® (oral semaglutide) 3 mg, 7 mg, 14 mg tablets with a new formulation (1.5 mg, 4 mg, 9 mg tablets) have been sent out to primary care.

The new formulation has increased bioavailability, which is bioequivalent to the initial formulation as described in the table below:

Initial formulation (one oval tablet)	Bioequivalent	New formulation (one round tablet)
3 mg (starting dose)	=	1.5 mg (starting dose)
7 mg (maintenance dose)	=	4 mg (maintenance dose)
14 mg (maintenance dose)	=	9 mg (maintenance dose)

Further details are highlighted in this [healthcare professional letter](#) from Novo Nordisk. The new formulations have the same efficacy, safety and method of administration as the initial formulation, but different packaging and tablet shape/size.

#### Important Notice

The new formulations are being deployed onto primary care clinical systems over the coming weeks so this change is now imminent - expect to see patients with amended scripts over the coming period and adjust stock levels accordingly.

#### ACTIONS for Community Pharmacy:

- GPs will be changing patients over to the new formulation **once it is available**. Patients may present to pharmacy with queries, please reassure them that the strengths are bioequivalent and this is not a dose change. This [patient information leaflet](#) is useful.
- **Please be vigilant to errors where the old strengths and new strengths are being co-prescribed**. Any errors should be reported back to the prescriber so the repeat template can be updated, do not dispense two Rybelsus products at the same time
- Doubling up of lower strengths of Rybelsus to achieve higher strengths is not recommended by the manufacturer. If any item is out of stock please liaise with the prescriber for an alternative option e.g. the 7mg can be continued until the 4mg is available
- The new products should **not** be used as dose steps in the up-titration of Rybelsus® (whilst the two formulations are in circulation).
- Supply of the new formulation of Rybelsus® is currently available in the 1.5 mg and 9 mg tablet strengths. The 4 mg strength is presently out of stock, and an update on its availability is pending.
- The old formulation stock is expected to be exhausted by the end of 2025.

It is important to ensure any adverse reactions are reported promptly to the [MHRA Yellow Card Scheme](#) and should also be reported to Novo Nordisk Limited (Telephone Novo Nordisk Customer Care Centre 0800 023 2573). See [SPS Medicines Supply Tool](#) for further information.

Thank you for your attention and prompt action to maintain patient safety.

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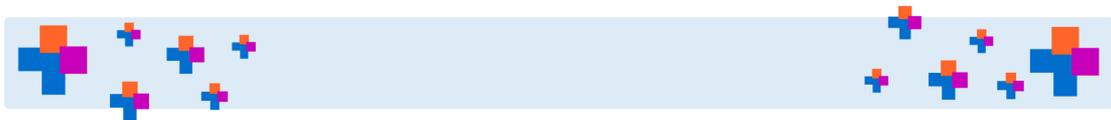
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