

Plain English Summary

Non-insulin injectable drugs for treating type 2 diabetes mellitus

What does the guidance say?

Dulaglutide is recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government funding for patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who meet certain clinical criteria.

Liraglutide and semaglutide are not recommended for funding for this condition.

What is diabetes mellitus?

Insulin is a hormone, made by the pancreas, that helps glucose (a type of sugar) from food enter into cells in the body so it can be used as energy or stored for later use. People with type 2 diabetes mellitus have high glucose in their blood because their body doesn't produce enough insulin or the insulin it produces isn't effective in getting glucose into the cells.

Over time, high blood glucose levels can cause a range of problems including vision loss, kidney disease, foot and leg problems and an increased risk of stroke and heart disease. Treatment for diabetes often requires lifestyle changes and medicines to manage blood glucose levels.

What is dulaglutide?

Dulaglutide belongs to a group of medicines called glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists which help to lower glucose (sugar) levels in the blood. It is given as an injection, most commonly in combination with oral anti-diabetic medicines and/or insulin.

Your doctor will tell you how much you need to take and how long you need to take it for.

Who can have dulaglutide?

Patients can have dulaglutide if they have type 2 diabetes mellitus that has not been well controlled by oral anti-diabetic medicines. Your doctor can advise if dulaglutide is a suitable treatment for you.

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Why was dulaglutide recommended for funding?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Dulaglutide was recommended for funding because its benefits in improving long term blood glucose control and reducing the risk of death, heart attack or stroke in certain patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus justifies its cost.

Semaglutide was not recommended for funding because its benefits do not justify its cost. No recommendation could be made for liraglutide as the company did not want their product to be reviewed for subsidy.

What does listing on the MAF mean for me?

The MAF helps people pay for expensive treatments that are clinically necessary. If your doctor prescribes dulaglutide for you, and you meet the MAF criteria, your treatment cost will be subsidised by 40% to 75%.

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 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE  Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

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