

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – LIVER DISEASE TREATMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to liver disease treatment in NHS Lothian.

Question:

Subsequent to Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) guidance SMC2497 09/10/2023 and SMC2653 10/06/2004, please provide information on whether your board has:

1. Developed a protocol for the use of the drugs Semaglutide or Tirzepatide for the treatment of Metabolic dysfunction Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD) in line with the above guidance if so, please supply a copy of this, along with the date it was produced.
2. If a protocol has been developed, please confirm if it has been implemented, and if so, provide the date on which it was implemented

Answer:

NHS Lothian has not developed a protocol for the use of these drugs for MASLD.

Question:

3. Please provide numbers of patients who subsequent to SMC guidance cited above, have commenced either drug for the treatment of MASLD in your health board up until 1st of October 2025

Answer:

No patients have been started on these drugs in NHS Lothian for the treatment of MSALD up to 1 October 2025.

Please note that none of the GLP-1 medicines are licensed for treatment of MASLD. The Scottish Medicines Consortium advice does not specifically include MASLD, and the treatment of MASLD with these drugs would be outwith SMC advice. There is emerging evidence for the use of these drugs in MASLD pathways, but this is not yet included in either SMC or NICE guidance.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive