

Tuesday 31 May 2022

Priority must go to people living with diabetes for diabetes drug Ozempic

Diabetes Victoria spoke out today to ask for priority be given to people living with diabetes for the medication Ozempic as supplies continue to be impacted by demand for the drug for weight loss.

Diabetes Victoria's Acting CEO, Ms Carolyn Hines said, "We have been working with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and others to ensure people living with diabetes are the priority in doctor's prescribing the medication, pharmacies dispensing and advising people living with diabetes on how to ensure their supply is not impacted by the shortage.

"People living with diabetes need to be the priority. Access to the right medications is important in the continuation of care and managing this serious condition for people living with diabetes," she said.

Diabetes is the fastest-growing chronic condition in Australia and, with 80 Victorians developing diabetes every day.

Ms Hines said, "People living with diabetes are managing their condition every day, and there is no such thing as mild diabetes.

"For people living with diabetes we are recommending during a medicine shortage; it is best to leave prescription with a regular pharmacy or a preferred pharmacy if possible. This will allow pharmacists to order for you and help you to get the medicines you need.

"Also talk to your health professional about alternatives that may be available to you," she said.

Diabetes Victoria is the leading charity and peak consumer body – we support, empower and campaign for all Victorians affected by, or at risk of diabetes. As a member-based organisation for nearly 70 years working to reduce the impact of diabetes.

"We are asking everyone to please prioritise essential continuity of care for people with type 2 diabetes during the shortage," said Ms Hines.

Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd has advised that supplies of semaglutide (Ozempic) in Australia are sufficient for this approved use, and is working with the TGA, professional associations and consumer groups to limit the effects caused by the recent significant prescribing outside of Ozempic's approved use.

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