

What is FreeStyle Libre®?

The FreeStyle Libre® flash glucose monitoring system is a device for the self-monitoring of glucose levels. Unlike traditional finger-prick devices (that measure the glucose level in the blood), Libre® measures the glucose level in the interstitial fluid, via a sensor that sits just under the skin. It can provide a near-continuous record, which is produced by the patient scanning the sensor with their reader-device, as and when required. Additional education and training is necessary for any healthcare professionals or patients who wish to use this system. Further information and videos can be found on the Abbott website at:

<https://www.freestylelibre.co.uk/libre/help/tutorials.html>

Who is it for?

The device has been available to purchase direct from the company for a few years and a number of people with diabetes currently order the sensors online. They may also come to the pharmacy and order via that route. If sensors are to be supplied on the NHS, it is expected that patients will meet local guidance criteria. Implementation guidance for London was issued by the NHSE London diabetes clinical networks and NHS London Procurement Partnership and is being used as a template by most London CCGs. This guidance and further information can be found here: <http://www.londonscn.nhs.uk/networks/cardiovascular/diabetes/freestyle-libre/>. Initiation of the device is advised via specialist centres and it is not expected that GP practices will initiate. They are, however, likely to continue prescribing in the community and therefore you may receive FP10s for the sensors.

What's on prescription?

The reader device is either purchased via online orders or may be provided via Abbott representatives direct to clinics – it is not available on FP10s. These devices are for long-term use and have associated warranties. The sensors last up to 14 days and can be ordered by prescription on the NHS if the patient is eligible as per local criteria. The PIP code for the FreeStyle Libre® sensor is 405-9028 – the pack contains a sensor, a sensor applicator and a wipe.

Once used, the sensor needs to be disposed of appropriately in a sharps bin. The applicator and pack should go in a biohazard pack and the pack can go in general waste. Therefore, the patient may require access to sharps bins and biohazard bags, which they may order through the pharmacy.

Patients may also wish to purchase additional items used to aid with sensor adhesion. Advice on sensor adhesion is provided here:

<https://www.freestylelibre.co.uk/libre/discover/applying-your-sensor.html>

How to order the sensors

Pharmacies can order through the following link: <https://www.freestylelibrepharmacyportal.co.uk/>

Upon first visit, independents/dispensing practices/hospital pharmacies will require registration; those in the large chains should be pre-registered and should have received login details from their respective head offices.

Delivery is next day for orders placed before 5pm.

What if there is a problem with the sensor?

The company should be contacted directly by the patient and not the pharmacy, specialist centre or GP practice. The patient should contact the Abbott Customer Careline on 0800 170 1177 on the day that a problem with the FreeStyle Libre® system is identified, such as the sensor falling off. The patient should keep the displaced/faulty FreeStyle Libre® sensor and follow the instructions of the Abbott Customer Careline representative.

Please note that a maximum of 3 replacement FreeStyle Libre® sensors can be issued per individual for those that fall off.

How to dispose of system components after use?

Puck/Sensor – Sharps bin



Applicator with cap on – Biohazard bag

Sensor pack – General waste



Where can I get more information?

Short video tutorials on how to set up the device and apply the sensor can be found by clicking on the following link <https://www.freestylelibre.co.uk/libre/help/tutorials.html>

More in-depth training materials and the full **London implementation guidance** can be found by clicking on the following link <http://www.londonscn.nhs.uk/networks/cardiovascular/diabetes/freestyle-libre/>