

Product Discontinuation: FreeStyle Libre 1

Abbott have confirmed that by the 31st December 2022 the original FreeStyle Libre flash glucose monitoring system will be discontinued in the UK. This is part of Abbott's product improvement plans. Please note that this discontinuation does **not** impact FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors.

The FreeStyle Libre 2 system is available and suitable for diabetic patients who qualified for the original FreeStyle Libre system. The benefits of the original FreeStyle Libre system remain with the FreeStyle Libre 2 system, with the main differences between the two systems being that the FreeStyle Libre 2 system has three optional real-time glucose alarms (low glucose, high glucose, and signal loss), and no finger prick tests (unless glucose readings and alarms do not match symptoms or expectations).

In the October Drug Tariff, the FreeStyle Libre sensor was flagged with a 3-month notice of deletion. It will be deleted from Part IX of the January 2023 Drug Tariff. This means that pharmacies will no longer be able to dispense the original FreeStyle Libre sensors from NHS prescriptions and receive payment after submission of their December bundle. The PSNC have more information on the submission of these prescriptions and advice for contractors, which can be found here: [FreeStyle Libre Sensor to be deleted from Part IX of the January 2023 Drug Tariff - PSNC Website](#)

Actions for prescribers:

- For patients currently prescribed original FreeStyle Libre sensors, prescriptions should be changed from the original FreeStyle Libre sensors to the FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors. Please note that the original FreeStyle Libre system should be stopped on the repeat template
- When appropriate, patients should be informed that they will be changed from the original FreeStyle Libre sensors to the FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors, and reassured that the FreeStyle Libre 2 system provides the same benefits as the original FreeStyle Libre system

Information for patients:

- Patients who are registered with the manufacturer, Abbott, should receive an email from Abbott letting them know what to do should they have opted into communication from Abbott
- Patients can use the FreeStyle LibreLink smartphone app to get the most out of the FreeStyle Libre 2 system. If patients are still using a reader, this is the ideal time for them to switch to the app. Please note that alarms cannot be received on multiple devices. Patients must start the FreeStyle Libre 2 sensor with the device they want to receive alarms on (either FreeStyle Libre 2 reader, or a compatible phone with FreeStyle LibreLink app):
- **Using the FreeStyle LibreLink app:**
 - For patients who already have the app, no action is required. Patients do not need to download a new app. Patients can continue to use their current app straight away to scan FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors, making sure they have updated the app to the latest version

- For patients who do not currently use but would like to start using the FreeStyle LibreLink app, they can download the app for free on the Apple App Store or Google Play store
- More information, including device compatibility, can be found at: <https://www.freestylelibre.co.uk/libre/>
- **Using a FreeStyle Libre 2 reader:**
 - Patients who require a reader for the FreeStyle Libre system will require a replacement reader for the FreeStyle Libre 2 system if they wish to continue using a reader
 - Patients can order a free of charge FreeStyle Libre 2 reader from Abbott directly by calling Abbott Customer Careline on 0800 170 1177 or they can order online by visiting: <https://www.freestylelibre.co.uk/libre/FSL2Replacement.html>
 - To order a new reader, patients will require their current FreeStyle Libre reader serial number (found in the grey square on the back of the reader). Patients do not have to send their old FreeStyle Libre black reader back. A new FreeStyle Libre 2 blue reader will be delivered directly to them

For **further support/advice and information for patients**, on this discontinuation of the original FreeStyle Libre system and about the FreeStyle Libre 2 system, patients should contact Abbott directly:

- Patients can visit the FreeStyle Libre **website** here: <https://www.freestylelibre.co.uk/libre/>
 - Abbott's website includes user-friendly information and free online training on the FreeStyle Libre 2 system to help patients get the most from it, including updating the app, alarm functionality and activating the Bluetooth alarm function etc. Patients can visit: <https://progress.freestylediabetes.co.uk/>
 - The website has an FAQ section and a list of their contact channels, including an Online Sensor Support Service and Live Chat, which can be found here: <https://www.freestylelibre.co.uk/libre/help/contact-us.html>
- If patients wish to contact Abbott via **telephone**, Abbott Customer Careline can be contacted on 0800 170 1177

For further information regarding this discontinuation please contact the Abbott Customer Service Team on 0800 032 1016