



Frequently Asked Questions for Patients with Type 1 Diabetes: National Guidance on Hybrid Close Loop

Q: I've heard about Hybrid Close Loops for people with diabetes type 1. What are they?

A: A Hybrid Close Loop is a Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) and an insulin pump working together. At present, some type 1 patients have just a CGM and some have just a pump. Hybrid Closed Loop (HCL) is new technology.

Q: I've heard that NICE have approved Hybrid Closed Loop technology for some patients living with type 1 diabetes. When can I be started on this?

A: NICE have recommended that Hybrid Closed Loop (HCL) technology should be offered as a way of managing blood glucose in type 1 diabetes if other methods haven't been successful. This means that if a diabetes specialist feels that a Hybrid Close Loop would help you, they will discuss it with you at your next appointment.

Putting all the arrangements for Hybrid Closed Loops in place and bringing them into local services takes time. NICE says that this may be up to 5 years. Any possible risks to a person's health and the person's own situation are important.

Q: How long may I have to wait to be offered Hybrid Closed Loop, if I can have it?

A: It is likely it will take a few years for some people who are allowed to have HCL to be offered it. It will become available in England over a period of 5 years. This means that during these 5 years we have to put systems in place so that we can support people with type 1 diabetes who are starting or continuing HCL. Medical staff need time to do this safely and properly.

We are following the NHS England advice, and we plan to provide HCL first for the patients who need it most, starting with children and young people, women who are pregnant, and patients with the most need for better control over their diabetes. We are following the national instructions to make sure that offering HCL is fair for all patients.

Q: Do I need to contact my specialist or Diabetes team?

A: If you are already receiving care for your diabetes from a hospital consultant, then no; your specialist knows who you are and will either contact you or check at your next regular appointment whether you can have HCL.

If you are receiving your diabetes care only from your GP and are not attending a hospital clinic, then ask your GP for an appointment with a diabetes specialist so that they can see if you are allowed to have HCL.



Q: What is the reason for making HCL available over a five-year period in this way?

A: The NHS needs time to start using HCL technologies safely. In order to manage making it available to such a large number of patients, during this five-year period the NHS will need to take on and train more staff as specialists so that all of the staff working with diabetes are properly trained.

If it was done in an unplanned way, without managing the basics of having enough staff and the differences in what health services can offer, there would be at a bigger risk of making the gaps in patients being able to use technology worse.

Q: Will everyone with type 1 diabetes be able to have the technology?

A: No, the NHS England advice doesn't include everyone with type 1 diabetes. There are also other rules that adults over 18 years old who aren't pregnant or who aren't planning to become pregnant will have to follow to be offered an HCL system.

Q: Which pumps or HCL will you offer?

A: NICE and NHS England have reached a national deal to provide HCL systems at a reasonable cost. While doing this, they have found systems that are available now in the UK and that we can choose from. As new types of equipment become available, technology also improves; if prices change, the cost may no longer be reasonable, so the types of equipment that we can offer will be looked into all the time. This means that the equipment or systems available for us to offer you may change over time. Like the rest of the NHS, we will be able to offer only the types of equipment on the national system.

Q: I have been contacted by my diabetes equipment (CGM or pump) company or representative and they told me that I can have HCL and told me to contact my medical team and the local NHS Integrated Care Board. What should I do?

A: You don't need to do anything. Your usual medical team will contact you or discuss possible choices with you at your next planned review. If the company contact you again, you can ask them to stop contacting you and tell them to speak to the NHS England national team as your local area is following advice from them. If you are allowed to have HCL, you should not have to pay for any of the costs of your pump treatment as the NHS covers these, so please do not agree to buy directly from the company before checking with your medical team.

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