As a practice we have come to the decision that our clinicians will not be able to review medical records of patients who have been privately prescribed the weight loss injection drugs known as ‘GLP-1 agonists’ or determine if they are safe to continue to use these medications. This is line with our practice guidelines which mirror our local NHS trust and NICE guidelines.

We have made this decision on the basis that it is the prescribing clinician’s full responsibility to assure themselves that their prescribing is safe, which entails taking an adequate history, examining the patient and acting on any pre prescribing investigations. This would also include objective and accurate weight measurement at initial assessment and at regular reviews. At no point is it expected that the patient’s NHS GP should take on these responsibilities. We would also like to highlight that private providers cannot assume that a non-response to their request is an agreement that there are no contraindications to prescribing this type of medication.

Whilst we would like to emphasise that we are still a point of contact for patients in case of any side effects to these type of medications we cannot accept responsibility for the pre-prescribing due diligence, prescribing, dispensing of medication or it’s monitoring.

Please also note that weight loss injections can interact with many other medications including HRT and so it is worth ensuring you have properly explored this possibility with your private provider.

We appreciate that this might be disappointing, but we hope that you understand that the rationale behind this is patient safety.

If you feel strongly that GPs should be providing this service then it may be worth contacting the Scottish Government to make clear that General Practice needs greater resourcing to provide the services that communities need.