

**CLOPIDOGREL – stop date, do not ignore**

Clopidogrel is an antiplatelet medication which prevents a type of blood cell called platelets from sticking together and forming a dangerous blood clot. While some patients need this medication long-term, others only require it for a specific period, like 12 months.

For these patients, **the duration and stop date** should be noted in the medication pharmacy text box e.g. ‘For 12m and stop Mar 2025 as per cardiology’.

This is important as patients taking antiplatelet medication have an increased risk of gastric bleeding and it should only be prescribed for the specified duration.

This also applies to other antiplatelet medication such as ticagrelor and prasugrel and occasionally other medication.

**Problem:** There have been instances where patients have continued to receive prescriptions for these medicines well after the stop date and this is a concern especially for patients with a high risk of bleeding.

**How you can help:** Be aware of ‘stop’ or ‘review’ dates noted on specific medicines. Do not issue medication that has reached or passed the ‘stop’ date. Instead, please flag to the practice pharmacist or GP for review.

**DIABETES: Freestyle Libre 3® glucose sensors**

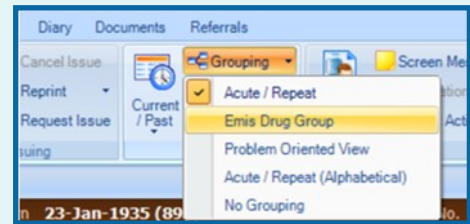
Patients may start enquiring about Freestyle Libre 3® sensors as these were added to the Drug Tariff in January 2024.

Freestyle Libre 3® may be used with a hybrid closed-loop system (HCL), sometimes called an artificial pancreas, which is a medical technology designed to automatically manage blood sugar levels in people with type 1 diabetes.

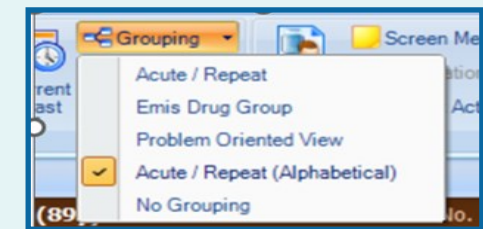
These sensors are currently **RED** on the Frimley formulary, while local HCL guidance is developed. The advice is that Freestyle Libre 3® sensors should not be prescribed in primary care until the local policy is in place.

**Duplicate Medication**

If a patient has a lot of medication, it can be difficult to see if there are any duplicates and one way to help with this is to use EMIS Drug Group function. It is especially useful for items like stoma products or feeds. At the top of the screen, click on ‘**Grouping**’, then select ‘**Emis Drug Group**’ as shown in the screenshot below- this will list medication and appliances according to the therapeutic area.



To return to the Acutes & Repeats listing: click on ‘**Grouping**’ and select ‘**Acute/Repeat**’ or ‘**Acute/Repeat (Alphabetical)**’



Ask a member of the pharmacy team to remove any duplicates to avoid double issues. This will help reduce medicines wastage as well as contributing to ‘good housekeeping’ practice.