



Case Study

ScriptSwitch Prescribing Clinical Decision Support, Quantity Limits Feature

September 2022



Vignette: Quantity Limits case study, semaglutide



The problem:

The cost of wasted medicines diverts money away from paying for the medication people need

There is a national problem of over-prescribing, recently reported to be 10% of the current volume of medicines*

* [Good for you, good for us, good for everyone, DHSC, 2021](#)



The challenge:

Supporting the volume of prescribing, tackling variation and implementing evidence-based guidelines

Medicine Optimisation teams have exhausted cost savings and medicine waste initiatives with semaglutide pens for the treatment of diabetes, a drug that is often over prescribed and an expensive product.



The solution:

Addressing the quantity of items prescribed, not just price using carefully selected quantity restricted switches

Quantity Restricted

Switch : A pre-filled pen (4 doses) to be used weekly, a single pen will last for one month.

Value: Supporting prescribers who accidentally issue 4 pens for a one-month treatment



The outcome:

Manages the total cost of prescribing, targeting price and volume – safely lowering costs

27 organisations have implemented Optum authored semaglutide switch suggestion

Saving: £638,447.00

Average acceptance rate: 44.8%

Highest performing account saved: £128,920.00 with an acceptance rate of 69.3%

(Optum data October 2021 – September 2022)



The benefit:

Further opportunities to deliver 'good practice of prescribing' in hard to tackle areas

Semaglutide is an expensive product compared to other quantity restricted switches providing a high degree of savings. With >10% improvement in acceptance rates across **all products**, this feature not only delivers savings, but improves prescribing compliance and reduces medical waste.

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“The Quantity Limit feature has been very helpful to flag up to prescribers the correct quantity of semaglutide pens to prescribe, especially for the 0.25mg/dose strength which is an initiation dose only and should be stepped up to 0.5mg/dose after one month, meaning only one 0.25mg/dose pen needs to be prescribed.

We are now exploring other ways to use the Quantity Limit feature for the benefit of prescribers and the CCG.”

Paul Marks, Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist
NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group

Safe, simple and cost effective



Safety

Patients avoid taking unnecessary medicines, ensuring safer quantities of controlled drugs, antibiotics and hypnotics are prescribed



Simplicity

The prescribing experience is seamless. Appropriate quantities for appliances, dressings, antidiabetic medications and certain high-cost drugs are available to the prescriber at the point of prescribing



Savings

Manages total cost of prescribing, increasing savings across the organisation and reduces medicines waste contributing to the sustainability agenda



The first of its kind to manage quantities of medicines and products

An additional £20,000 of savings has recently been generated from the latest batch of similar drug switches in the same class as semaglutide



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ScriptSwitch Prescribing – Clinical Decision Support
is a Class I Medical Device (EU MDD 93/42/EEC)
(UK MDR 2002)