

press release

Wegovy® ▼ (semaglutide injection) 2.4 mg recommended by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) to reduce risk of major adverse cardiovascular events, including heart attacks and strokes, in adults with established cardiovascular disease and either obesity or overweight (BMI ≥ 27 kg/m²)

- The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) recommended Wegovy® ▼ (semaglutide injection) 2.4 mg as an option to reduce risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) (cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, or non-fatal stroke) in adults with established cardiovascular disease and either obesity or overweight (BMI ≥ 27 kg/m²), alongside reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity¹
- This is the first and only GLP-1 receptor agonist (RA) that the SMC has recommended specifically for reducing the risk of MACE, including heart attacks and strokes in adults with established cardiovascular disease and overweight or obesity.
- The decision is based on results from the SELECT cardiovascular outcomes trial,² where semaglutide 2.4 mg on top of standard of care reduced the risk for first occurrence of MACE by 20% compared to placebo (hazard ratio, 0.80; 95% confidence interval, 0.72 to 0.90; $p < 0.001$).² Over the trial period, which had a mean follow-up of 39.8 months, MACE occurred in 6.5% of participants receiving semaglutide compared with 8.0% receiving placebo, representing an absolute risk reduction of 1.5 percentage points.² Further analysis found this cardiovascular risk reduction was independent of weight loss.³
- In its recommendation SMC stated that in this population, semaglutide “fills an unmet need and is a therapeutic advancement as it is the first treatment option in this setting to both supports reduced cardiovascular risk and weight loss and/or maintenance”.¹
- Ischaemic heart disease causes more than one in four of all deaths in Scotland, claiming nearly 50 lives every day and are the most common cause of mortality in the country.^{4,5}

08 June 2026, GATWICK, UK,: The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has recommended Wegovy® (semaglutide injection) 2.4 mg as the first GLP-1 RA to reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, or non-fatal stroke) in adults with established cardiovascular disease and either obesity or overweight (BMI ≥ 27 kg/m²) meaning that thousands of people in Scotland at risk of repeat heart attack or stroke have today been given new hope.¹

Ischaemic heart disease remains a leading cause of death across the nation⁵, responsible for over 17,000 deaths every year, or nearly 50 people every day and at a cost of approximately £950 million per year to NHS Scotland.⁴ The burden is felt even more heavily in Scotland's most

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deprived communities, where the prevalence of cardiovascular disease is twice as high as in the least deprived areas, and generally exceed those in the rest of the UK.⁴

Sebnem Avsar Tuna, General Manager Novo Nordisk UK said: "We are delighted that the SMC has recognised the value semaglutide can bring to the people in Scotland who are living with established cardiovascular disease and overweight or obesity, where the threat of a secondary event is a constant reality. We are now working closely with NHS Boards across Scotland to ensure this treatment reaches the people who need it as quickly as possible."

The SMC's decision is based on results from the SELECT trial that demonstrated semaglutide 2.4 mg when added to standard of care reduced the risk for first occurrence of MACE by 20% compared to placebo² (hazard ratio, 0.80; 95% CI, 0.72 to 0.90; $p < 0.001$) and independent of weight loss.² Over the trial period, MACE occurred in 6.5% of participants receiving semaglutide compared with 8.0% receiving placebo, representing an absolute risk reduction of 1.5 percentage points.²

Beyond the reduction in cardiovascular events, the SELECT trial also demonstrated that semaglutide 2.4 mg led to statistically significant improvement in health-related quality of life for patients.² Additionally, supportive evidence from the STEP-HFpEF study showed semaglutide 2.4 mg produced meaningful improvements in symptoms and physical limitations for patients living with obesity-related heart failure.⁶

Overall, the safety profile of semaglutide injection 2.4mg in SELECT was consistent with previous trial experience in STEP 1.^{2,7} Serious adverse events were lower with those receiving semaglutide compared with placebo (33.4% vs 36.4%; $p < 0.001$).² Adverse events leading to treatment discontinuation were more common with semaglutide injection 2.4mg vs placebo (16.6% vs 8.2%; $p < 0.001$), and were primarily due to gastrointestinal symptoms.²

With the SMC's acceptance following a recent recommendation by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in England, Wegovy® is now recommended for this preventative cardiovascular use across all four nations of the United Kingdom.⁸

About the SELECT trial²

SELECT was a randomised, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled trial designed to evaluate the efficacy of semaglutide 2.4 mg versus placebo as an adjunct to standard of care for reducing the risk of MACE in people with established cardiovascular disease with overweight or obesity with no prior history of diabetes at baseline. People included in the trial were aged ≥ 45 years with a BMI ≥ 27 kg/m.²

The primary objective of the SELECT trial was to demonstrate the superiority of semaglutide 2.4 mg compared to placebo with respect to reducing the incidence of three-point MACE consisting of cardiovascular death, non-fatal heart attack (myocardial infarction) or non-fatal stroke.² The

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trial, initiated in 2018, enrolled 17,604 adults and was conducted in 41 countries at more than 800 clinical sites.²

Notes to Editors

Wegovy® (semaglutide injection) indications in adults

Weight Management in Adults

Wegovy is indicated as an adjunct to a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity for weight management, including weight loss and weight maintenance, in adults with an initial Body Mass Index (BMI) of

- *≥30 kg/m² (obesity), or*
- *≥27 kg/m² to <30 kg/m² (overweight) in the presence of at least one weight-related comorbidity.⁹*

Cardiovascular Risk Reduction

Wegovy is indicated as an adjunct to a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity to reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, or non-fatal stroke) in adults with established cardiovascular disease and either obesity or overweight (BMI ≥27 kg/m²).⁹

About Novo Nordisk

Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company, founded in 1923 and headquartered in Denmark. Our purpose is to drive change to defeat serious chronic diseases, built upon our heritage in diabetes. We do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to our medicines, and working to prevent and ultimately cure disease. Novo Nordisk employs about 68,800 people in 80 countries and markets its products in around 170 countries.

For more information visit: www.novonordisk.co.uk

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³ Deanfield J, Lincoff AM, Kahn SE *et al.* Semaglutide and cardiovascular outcomes by baseline and changes in adiposity measurements: a prespecified analysis of the SELECT trial, *The Lancet*, 2025; 406, 2257-2268.

⁴ British Heart Foundation. Scotland Cardiovascular Disease Factsheet. January 2026. Available at: <https://www.bhf.org.uk/-/media/files/for-professionals/research/heart-statistics/bhf-cvd-statistics-scotland-factsheet-jan26.pdf> [Last accessed: June 2026]

⁵ National Records of Scotland. Vital Events Reference Tables 2024. August 2025. Available at: [Vital Events Reference Tables 2024 - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#) [Last accessed: June 2026]

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⁷ Wilding JPH, Batterham RL, Calanna S, *et al.* Once-weekly semaglutide in adults with overweight or obesity. *N Engl J Med.* 2021;384(11):989–1002. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2032183.

⁸ National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Semaglutide for reducing the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in people with cardiovascular disease and overweight or obesity. May 2026. [Overview | Semaglutide for reducing the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in people with cardiovascular disease and overweight or obesity | Guidance | NICE](#). Last accessed June 2026.

⁹ Wegovy SmPC. Last accessed June 2026.