

**From the Chief Medical Officer
Professor Sir Michael McBride**



HSS(MD) 11/2026

FOR ACTION

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Chief Operating Officer, SPPG
GP Medical Advisers, SPPG
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (for onward distribution to practice staff) and Community Pharmacies
OOHs Medical Managers (for onward distribution to staff)
RQIA (for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals)
Raymond Curran, Head of Ophthalmic Services, SPPG
(*for distribution to Community Optometrists*)

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 11/2026
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PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST

Dear Colleague

MHRA DRUG SAFETY UPDATE: Semaglutide (Wegovy, Ozempic and Rybelsus): risk of Non-arteritic Anterior Ischaemic Optic Neuropathy (NAION)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued the below Drug Safety Update.

Healthcare Professionals are asked to note and action the advice for healthcare professionals and advice for healthcare professionals to provide to patients contained within the Drug Safety Update.

Please find the link to the complete **MHRA Drug Safety Update** included below:

Semaglutide (Wegovy, Ozempic and Rybelsus): risk of Non-arteritic Anterior Ischaemic Optic Neuropathy (NAION)

Non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION), a condition that can cause sudden deterioration in vision, usually in one eye at a time, has been very rarely reported in association with semaglutide in the treatment of type 2 diabetes, weight management and cardiovascular risk reduction. Patients reporting a sudden loss of vision (including partial loss) while on semaglutide treatment should be urgently referred for ophthalmological examination.

Reporting advice

Healthcare professionals, patients, and caregivers are asked to submit reports using the Yellow Card scheme electronically using:

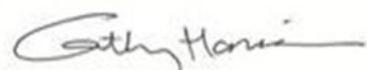
- the [Yellow Card website](#).
- the Yellow Card app; download from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#)
- some clinical IT systems for healthcare professionals

When reporting suspected adverse drug reactions, please provide as much information as possible, including information about medical history, any concomitant medication, onset timing, and treatment dates.

For queries or more information, please contact info@mhra.gov.uk.

You can subscribe to the MHRA Safety Roundup bulletin [here](#). The latest MHRA Safety Roundup is available at the following link: [MHRA Safety Roundup](#).

Yours sincerely



PROFESSOR SIR MICHAEL MCBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer

PROFESSOR CATHY HARRISON
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

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This letter is available on the Department of Health website at

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<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications>