[Practice name]

[Practice Address 1]

[Practice Address 2]

[Practice Address 3]

[Postcode]

[Date]

[Patient name]

[Patient address1]

[Patient address 2]

[Patient address 3]

[Postcode]

Dear Patient,

**Changes to prescribing of needles for pre-filled / reusable insulin pens or Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist pens (liraglutide (Victoza®) and tirzepatide (Mounjaro®))**

The NHS carries out regular reviews of medicines to make sure that patients continue to receive high quality and effective treatment while ensuring that the NHS gets the best value for money.

We are writing to you today to let you know of a change in the brand of the needles on your prescription. The full details of the changes are shown below and these new needles will be given to you when you collect your next repeat prescription.

In line with current local and national guidelines, we will be changing your future prescriptions from **[insert previous brand and length]** to **BD Viva 4mm**

These new needles are used in the same way as your previous ones. Please finish using all the needles you currently have before starting the new brand of needles. The appearance of the new needles may differ slightly from your previous ones but apart from this you should notice no difference.

**Which pen needles are affected?**

There are many different types of needles available for pre-filled / reusable insulin pens or GLP-1 receptor agonist pens. Pen needles vary in length and the 4mm needles are considered safer than longer needles as they reduce the risk of the medicine being injected into the muscle, instead of under the skin. Pen needles also vary greatly in cost, with no significant difference in how well they work, so it is important not to spend limited NHS funding on pen needles that are more expensive but offer no extra benefit to patients.

**Where can you find more information and support?**

* Local information on needles for pre-filled / reusable insulin pens or GLP-1 receptor agonist pens, including information on safe disposal of sharps in Hertfordshire and West Essex, can be found [here](https://www.hweclinicalguidance.nhs.uk/all-clinical-areas-documents/download?cid=3660&checksum=9627c45df543c816a3ddf2d8ea686a99)
* You can speak to your GP or the person who prescribed the pen needles for you.
* The Forum for Injection Technique (FIT) – <http://www.fit4diabetes.com/united-kingdom/>
* The Patients Association can also offer support and advice: [www.patients-association.org.uk/](https://www.patients-association.org.uk/) or call 0800 345 7115

Yours Sincerely,

On Behalf of the GPs at [Practice name]

Find out more about the medicines that are being stopped or reduced:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-policy-guidance/>