

### **OBESITY MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM SUMMARY**

Obesity is a chronic, relapsing disease requiring long-term management, not short-term intervention

#### 1. PRINCIPLES



Recognise obesity as an adiposity-based chronic disease (ABCD)



Assess severity and complications to guide treatment



Management must be individualised and sustained

## 2. CORE INTERVENTIONS



Lifestyle intervention: nutrition, physical activity, behaviour therapy (foundation of care) Obesity Management Medications (OMMs):

- Orlistat modest efficacy, lipid benefits
- Naltrexone/Bupropion moderate efficacy, mood effects, ↑ BP risk
- Liraglutide weight loss, T2D benefit, some QoL improvement
- Phentermine/Topiramate higher weight loss, \ BP
- Semaglutide substantial weight loss (>10%), ↓ MACE,
   ↓ all-cause mortality, T2D remission, ↓ pain in knee OA
- **Tirzepatide** highest weight loss (≥15%), T2D remission, OSAS and MASH remission, ↓ HF hospitalisation



Metabolic Bariatric Surgery: for severe disease or insufficient medical therapy

#### 3. TAILORING BY COMORBIDITIES



Type 2 Diabetes
Tirzepatide or
Semaglutide most
effective



Cardiovascular disease Semaglutide (MACE reduction)



Heart failure
Semaglutide or
Tirzepatide



Prediabetes
Semaglutide,
Tirzepatide, Liraglutide,
Orlistat



Liver disease (MASH/MASLD) Tirzepatide best evidence



Obstructive sleep apnoea Tirzepatide



Knee osteoarthritis Semaglutide

# 4. LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE



Weight regain is common if medication is stopped → continuous therapy is supported by evidence



Combine lifestyle with pharmacotherapy, and surgery as appropriate



Always monitor safety, mental health, and QoL

**KEY TAKEAWAY** 

The algorithm highlights that early, sustained intervention with appropriate medication choice guided by complications supports patients with obesity. Obesity management must be long-term, multi-component, and personalised.



