



**Dr. Tom Elliott MBBS, FRCPC**  
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2022-Nov-18

Mitch Moneo  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Pharmaceutical, Laboratory and Blood Services Division, Ministry of Health

Dear Mr. Moneo,

Re: Ministry of Health Response - 1244156

Thank you for email of today's date responding to [my letter of 2022-Oct-20](#). For completeness your email has been appended to this response.

I look forward to being part of the process to revise the criteria for SAs for Type 2 diabetes. It cannot come soon enough. Many of my client's are being denied access to life-changing and life-saving drugs because of the existing SA criteria which call for the use of SUs as a prerequisite for GLP-1, SGLT2 and DPP4 coverage.

As you are aware, I consider SUs to be dangerous drugs and as such am not willing to prescribe them to any of my clients, regardless of individual patient characteristics (age, BMI, presence or absence of diabetes complications), because of fear for their safety: any client with functioning beta cells is at risk of severe hypoglycemia. In my 30 years as a specialist endocrinologist/diabetologist I have treated more than 30,000 individuals with Type 2 diabetes and have witnessed one death and innumerable episodes of severe hypoglycemia, directly attributable to the prescription of sulfonylurea drugs.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Elliott

On Fri, 18 Nov 2022 at 10:47, HLTH PLBSD Correspondence Unit HLTH:EX  
<[HLTHPSDCORR@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTHPSDCORR@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:  
1244156 Dr. Tom Elliotttelliott@bcdiabetes.ca

Dear Dr. Elliott: Thank you for your email of October 20, 2022, regarding the current Special Authority (SA) criteria for coverage of the dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP 4) inhibitors, sodium glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors, and glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP 1) agonists classes of drugs for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes. I appreciate your sharing your expertise though your detailed response to our earlier email. I also appreciate your offer to assist us in revising the SA criteria for second-line Type 2 diabetes drugs. When we are able to re-examine our SA criteria for the Type 2 diabetes drugs, hopefully in the near future, we will be in contact with you to further discuss your recommendations. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely, Mitch Moneo  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Pharmaceutical, Laboratory and Blood  
Services Division