

Mounjaro is a sign that the government does not care

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As the [BBC has reported this morning](#):

A new weight-loss jab will be rolled out on the NHS in England - but it could take 12 years for everyone to receive it, the NHS drugs advisory body says.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) final draft guidance on Mounjaro has recommended it starts being given from March, alongside advice on diet and exercise.

It will be offered to people with a body mass index (BMI) of more than 35 and at least one obesity-related health problem - potentially 3.4 million people.

But because of concerns it could overwhelm services, and in particular GPs, NICE has agreed to give the NHS more than a decade to introduce it - an unprecedented move for a medication.

Let's just work out the economics of this.

There is little evidence that people who take this drug will sustain their weight loss when they come off it, so once on it, they will need to be treated for life.

The cost, according to the same report, is £122 per patient per month.

So, over the next 12 years, we will ramp up to spending £5 billion a year on this drug, without taking into account all the additional costs of prescribing, monitoring and dealing with the side effects.

The same effect could be achieved by controlling the sugar in ultra-processed food and by reducing the carbohydrate intake of most people whilst making it clear that we actually need some of the fat that the sugar industry has made the target of misinformation for a considerable period. Even I am not finding it hard to lose weight following that advice.

Instead of doing what is required by challenging the industrial food complex, this government would rather boost the profits of the pharmaceutical industrial complex.

They really are not on the side of people who - as ever - are simply a means for the delivery of profit to big business, whatever the consequence of doing so might be.

I will say it again. This government really does not care.