

GLP-1 and GIP/GLP-1 Receptor Agonists

Over 40 million Americans live with diabetes, and its rising prevalence underscores the need for therapies that improve glycemic control and address key comorbidities, including cardiovascular (CV) disease, chronic kidney disease and obesity.¹ A 2025 survey found that more than one in four adults with diabetes use glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) or dual glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP)/GLP-1 agonist injectables for glycemic or weight management.² Driven by the clinical benefits and expanded indications, the role of GLP-1 drugs have increased beyond diabetes management in recent years.³ As utilization grows, staying current on their coverage considerations is essential:

- **Medicare Part D** excludes drugs used only for anorexia, weight loss or weight gain.⁴ GLP-1 agents are not covered for weight loss only, but may be covered for other indications with a prior authorization (PA).
- **Medi-Cal Rx** no longer covers GLP-1 drugs for weight loss alone as of January 1, 2026. GLP-1 agents are covered for Type 2 diabetes and other health conditions. Note that Medi-Cal members under 21 years of age may be eligible for coverage of a GLP-1 agent for weight loss with a PA in accordance with the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit requirements.⁵

Label Name	Formulation & Frequency	FDA-Approved Indications ⁶	OneCare	Medi-Cal Rx
Bydureon (exenatide)	SC injection weekly	T2DM	Non-formulary	Formulary*
Byetta (exenatide)	SC injection twice daily	T2DM	Non-formulary	Formulary*
Mounjaro (tirzepatide)	SC injection weekly	T2DM	PA required	Formulary*
Ozempic (semaglutide)	SC injection weekly	T2DM; CV and CKD risk reduction in T2DM	PA required	Formulary*
Rybelsus (semaglutide)	Oral tablet daily	T2DM; CV risk reduction in T2DM	PA required	Formulary*
Trulicity (dulaglutide)	SC injection weekly	T2DM; CV risk reduction in T2DM	PA required	Formulary*
Victoza (liraglutide)	SC injection daily	T2DM; CV risk reduction in T2DM	Non-formulary	Formulary*
Wegovy (semaglutide)	SC injection weekly	Obesity, or overweight with comorbidity; CV risk reduction in obesity; MASH	PA required	Non-formulary†
Wegovy (semaglutide)	Oral tablet daily	Obesity or overweight with comorbidity; CV risk reduction in obesity	PA required	Non-formulary
Zepbound (tirzepatide)	SC injection weekly	Obesity, or overweight with comorbidity; obstructive sleep apnea in obesity	Non-formulary	Non-formulary‡

* Restricted to Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM); † Adults with noncirrhotic metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) and moderate to advanced liver fibrosis, or with established CV disease and obesity or overweight, may submit a PA; ‡ Adults with moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea and obesity may submit a PA

References

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