

April 2024

## Update: Review of Coverage for GLP-1 Drug Class for Commercial & Medicare Plans

We strive for best-in-class care with the work and support of our provider community. Providers are essential in managing our members' health conditions. With all the publicity and attention around the Glucagon-like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) drug class and the current drug shortages impacting this drug class, it is vital to understand our policies and medical criteria to avoid sending *unnecessary* prior authorization requests to Prime Therapeutics (Florida Blue's Pharmacy Benefits Manager).

### What You Need to Know

Florida Blue commercial and Medicare pharmacy coverage for GLP-1 drug class is for FDA-approved indications only related to treatment of type 2 diabetes. **Florida Blue does not cover or approve prior authorization requests for *off-label* indications.**

For commercial plans, we recently updated the GLP-1 prior authorization criteria as follows:

- Providers are now required to provide clinical documentation of type 2 diabetes diagnosis when submitting a request for approval.
- Providers must submit documentation to indicate that a patient has tried and failed metformin, other metformin combination drugs, or insulin to demonstrate medical necessity for GLP-1 approval.
- If a patient is not a type 2 diabetic or does not have the clinical documentation necessary to support your request, the authorization request will be denied.

As of **April 1, 2024**, we are **excluding Victoza** from coverage for commercial plans only. We are allowing current members on Victoza continued coverage until **July 1, 2024**. If a patient reaches out to you to prescribe and submit another GLP-1 prior authorization request, the necessary clinical documentation from the patients' medical record(s) must be included with the prior authorization request. Otherwise, the request will be denied.

Additionally, medications used for weight loss/management are excluded from coverage under Medicare federal regulations and Florida Blue's health insurance plans. **Requesting an authorization for drugs like Wegovy, Saxenda, or other medications for weight loss/management will result in denial.**

### Important Reminders

Be sure to consider the information above when assessing a diabetic patients' treatment needs. Only submit prior authorization requests for GLP-1 drugs when the criteria are met. You can find our GLP-1 prior authorization criteria questions at [myPrime.com](https://myPrime.com) before submitting your request to CoverMyMeds.

If you believe a GLP-1 medication is appropriate for a patient to address weight loss/management, **please do not submit a request to Prime Therapeutics to review.** Be sure to let the patient know the GLP-1 drugs will not be covered, and it will have to be paid for out of pocket. Submitting a GLP-1 request for weight loss/management to Prime Therapeutics will result in a denial. Avoiding these submissions supports efficiencies for providers, their staff, and Prime Therapeutics.

### **What Florida Blue Covers for the GLP-1 Drug Class**

For commercial plans, you can reference our provider website under Medical & Pharmacy Policies and Guidelines. Click on [Pharmacy Utilization Management](#) and in the Prior Authorization section, [Prior Authorization Information and Authorization Forms](#).

Listed below are the preferred GLP-1 drugs covered by Florida Blue for type 2 diabetes with clinical documentation for a diabetes diagnosis.

- Mounjaro
- Ozempic
- Rybelsus
- Trulicity
- Victoza (Medicare only)

For Medicare, please reference the following information:

[Prior Authorization \(myPrime.com\)](#)

### **Member Wellness Information and Other Programs**

Florida Blue offers its members a variety of [wellness programs](#) for no extra cost at local Florida Blue Centers and online. Programs include nutrition, weight management, exercise, cholesterol, diabetes, heart health, stress management, and more. Please be sure to remind Florida Blue patients of these valuable offerings.