

GLP-1 medications used for weight loss are excluded from coverage

GLP-1 agonists are a class of medications originally approved to treat type 2 diabetes. These include Trulicity® (dulaglutide), Ozempic® (semaglutide), Rybelsus® (semaglutide), Victoza® (liraglutide), and Byetta®/Bydureon® (exenatide). Mounjaro® (tirzepatide) is a GLP-1/GIP agonist also approved for type 2 diabetes.

Versions of some of these medications were approved to reduce excess body weight in combination with a reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity. This includes Wegovy® (semaglutide), Zepbound® (tirzepatide), and Saxenda® (liraglutide). These medications are costly (approximately \$1000 per month) and require continuous use to maintain benefits. They also have high discontinuation rates, raising questions about long-term value.

Security Health Plan does not cover these medications (on- or off-label) for the sole indication of weight loss as it is an exclusion from coverage. For members with individual and family, small and large employer group plans, as well as select Insite by Security Health Plan groups, weight loss medications are considered a benefit exclusion as outlined in the certificate of coverage.

For Medicare members, weight loss medications are excluded from coverage per section 1927(d)(2) of the Part D coverage law. Coverage determination requests (prior authorizations) and appeals for the use of GLP-1 agonists for weight loss will not result in a change in coverage.

Members using FDA-approved medications for the treatment of type 2 diabetes will continue to be eligible for coverage through the prior authorization process. Clinical documentation (ex. clinic notes and/or labs) needs to be submitted with the prior authorization request form to receive approval for these medications.

If you have any questions about Security Health Plan's pharmacy benefits, please contact Security Health Plan Pharmacy Services at (877) 873-5611, (715) 221-9604, or shprx@securityhealth.org.