

Weight Loss Medications 2023-2024

Semaglutide / GLP1 agonists for Weight Loss

OUR NEW SOLUTION:

We are now using a compounding pharmacy that has a generic version of Semaglutide, the same medication in the Trade name brands listed below. This is a private pay, outside of your insurance option. The cost is ~75% discounted for patients and averages ~ \$300 / month. If our providers determine that Semaglutide is a reasonable option to try, this is the only weight loss version of Semaglutide we will prescribe at PMG at this time due to the lack of insurance coverage and complexities of their rules associated with prescribing this medication for weight loss.

THE SEMAGLUTIDE STORY:

Wegovy™, Ozempic™, Rybelsus™, Trulicity™ and Mounjaro™ and others are all in the GLP1 agonist class of antidiabetic medications. These are very effective, and generally safe but expensive medicines to treat diabetes. They are also quite effective for many people when used for weight loss in addition to proper physical activity and eating habits.

These medications are typically not paid for by insurance for weight loss and even for diabetes in many instances as they are very costly. When they are covered, even the copay can be costly. At the time of this writing, Medicare (all plans), Priority Health, most HAP plans, United Health Care and others do not cover them, and many others may “cover” them but the rules to qualify are onerous and may not be able to be met.

Typically, you will need to prove at least 6 months of formal weight loss activities such as a reduced calorie in conjunction with fitness and nutritional program documented in the chart at office visits. They often also require the trial and failure of other weight loss medications. Live office visits for in-office weight documentation are necessary for every weight loss visit. There are many less expensive medications such as Metformin and Bupropion that can and should be tried first along with lifestyle improvements, of course.

Also, these companies change their rules often and we have no warning or power over this. Bottom line, these medications are costly, and they may or may not be covered short term and or long term.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE NO POWER TO OVERRIDE THE RULES OF YOUR
INSURANCE COMPANY