

COMPLIANCE CUE

2026 Medicare GLP-1 Bridge Program

BACKGROUND

On July 1, 2026, **CMS launched the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge Program**, providing eligible Medicare Part D beneficiaries access to select glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists FDA-approved for the indication of weight loss. GLP-1 medications prescribed for other indications, such as for the treatment of diabetes, will not be covered under the pilot program.

Through December 31, 2027, the GLP-1 Bridge Program will operate outside of traditional Part D plan coverage, using a central processor to manage prior authorization, claims processing, and pharmacy payment, to provide eligible beneficiaries with GLP-1 access for a standard \$50 copay.

ARE MY RESIDENTS ELIGIBLE?

1. The resident is enrolled in an eligible Medicare Part D Plan, which may include:

- ✓ Standalone Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP)
- ✓ Medicare Advantage (MA) Coordinated Care Plan with Drug Coverage (MA-PD)
- ✓ Special Needs Plan (SNP)
- ✓ Employer/Union Group Waiver Plan (EGWP)
- ✓ Limited Income Newly Eligible Transition (LI NET) Program
- ✓ Private Fee-For-Service Plans, Section 1876 Cost Contract Plans, Section 1833 Health Care Prepayment plans, and PACE Organizations also enrolled in a standalone PDP, as applicable

For more information on eligible plan types, please refer to CMS's [GLP-1 Bridge Program for Providers](#) website.

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2. The resident is prescribed a one month's supply (28- or 30-day supply) of one of the following GLP-1 receptor agonists:

- ✓ Foundayo® (orforglipron tablets)
- ✓ Wegovy® (semaglutide tablets and injections)
- ✓ Zepbound® (tirzepatide kwikpens only)
- ✗ Ozempic®, Trulicity®, Victoza®, Saxenda®

3. The resident must meet the following clinical criteria:

- ✓ At least 18 years of age
- ✓ GLP-1 is only prescribed for weight loss and not for another FDA-approved indication
- ✓ At the time the GLP-1 is initiated, the resident meets criteria under one or more of the following body mass index (BMI) categories:

BMI $\geq$ 27 AND

- Prediabetes; or
- Previous Heart Attack or Stroke; or
- Symptomatic Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)

BMI $\geq$ 30 AND

- Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (HFpEF); or
- Uncontrolled Hypertension; or
- Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Stage 3a+

BMI $\geq$ 35

- No additional requirements.

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HOW CAN MY FACILITY PARTICIPATE?

For eligible residents, providers can submit GLP-1 orders to the pharmacy using the facility's normal standard process. Once received, the pharmacy will adjudicate claims as appropriate and notify the prescriber if an additional prior authorization (PA) is required for coverage under the GLP-1 Bridge Program.

Providers should note that prospective PAs are not permitted.

- If a PA is rejected, the provider will be notified and provided with a denial reason.
- If a PA accepted, subsequent fills of the GLP-1 will continue to be processed under the Bridge Program.
- A new PA is only required if the resident switches between eligible GLP-1 products.

HOW PHARMERICA CAN HELP

- Consultant Pharmacists to review resident eligibility criteria during monthly medication regimen reviews.
- Dedicated Pharmacists to receive and process GLP-1 prescriptions according to Medicare GLP-1 Bridge requirements.
- Clinical Pharmacists to provide in-services and education on GLP-1 medication indications, administration, safety considerations.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Medicare GLP-1 Bridge | CMS](#)
- [Medicare GLP-1 Bridge for Prescribers | CMS](#)
- [Medicare GLP-1 Bridge for Pharmacies | CMS](#)