

# **GLP-1 Drugs – Medi-Cal Rx Members' Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Version 2.0

November 26, 2025

Per the enacted [2025-26 State Budget](#), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is implementing a series of Medi-Cal Rx policy updates to reduce pharmacy spending, improve program integrity, and ensure continued, equitable access to quality pharmacy benefits and services. This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document provides clarification to members regarding policy updates to GLP-1 drugs.

## **1. What is happening to GLP-1 drug coverage on January 1, 2026?**

The policy as of January 1, 2026, is that Medi-Cal Rx will no longer approve requests, called prior authorizations (PAs), for GLP-1 drugs when they are used for weight loss only. GLP-1 drugs that will no longer be covered by Medi-Cal Rx for weight loss include:

- Wegovy®
- Zepbound®
- Saxenda®
- Ozempic®
- Rybelsus®
- Mounjaro®
- Victoza®
- Byetta
- Bydureon®
- Trulicity®

### **Notes:**

- These drugs, excluding Wegovy, Zepbound, and Saxenda, may still be covered for other health conditions, like type 2 diabetes, if your pharmacy provider or prescriber submits a request and it is approved.
- Medi-Cal members who are younger than 21 years of age and need a GLP-1 drug for weight loss may be eligible for coverage if the member's pharmacy provider or prescriber submits a PA request and it is approved due to federal requirements.

## **2. What are GLP-1 drugs?**

Glucagon-like peptide-1, or GLP-1, are drugs that can help with some health problems, including type 2 diabetes, by copying a natural hormone in the body called GLP-1. GLP-1 drugs are usually given as a shot once a day or once a week.

## **3. What is a PA request?**

A PA is a request submitted by your pharmacy provider or prescriber as part of a pre-approval process for Medi-Cal Rx to pay for certain pharmacy drugs and medical supplies. You can call the Medi-Cal Rx Customer Service Center (CSC) at 1-800-977-2273 to ask about the status of your PA requests submitted by your pharmacy provider or prescriber.

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#### **4. Why is Medi-Cal Rx removing GLP-1 drugs from coverage for weight loss?**

DHCS is making changes to Medi-Cal Rx to lower pharmacy costs, strengthen oversight, and ensure fair access to quality pharmacy services. These updates are part of California's enacted [2025-26 State Budget](#).

#### **5. What do I do if I am already taking a GLP-1 drug for weight loss?**

To prepare for the January 1, 2026, policy change, if you currently take a GLP-1 drug for weight loss only, talk to your doctor about other ways to help you lose weight and improve your health. Alternate options to support your health might include other drugs, diet changes, exercise, and counseling.

#### **6. Am I still going to be able to get a GLP-1 drug for health problems other than weight loss?**

Yes, you may still be able to get a GLP-1 drug for other health problems. Your pharmacy provider or prescriber can send a PA request to Medi-Cal Rx to show that the drug is needed for other health problems and Medi-Cal Rx will review it for coverage.

Talk to your pharmacy provider or prescriber about submitting a PA request if you take one of the following GLP-1 drugs:

- Wegovy for noncirrhotic metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) or cardiovascular disease
- Zepbound for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)

If you take Ozempic, Rybelsus, Mounjaro, Victoza, Byetta, Bydureon, or Trulicity for type 2 diabetes, it will continue to be covered if your pharmacy provider or prescriber submits a request and it is approved. If you take these drugs for other health problems, talk to your doctor.

#### **7. If my child currently takes a GLP-1 drug for weight loss and is a California Children's Services (CCS) member younger than 21 years of age, will their drug be covered after January 1, 2026?**

If a member who is younger than 21 years of age is in CCS and needs a GLP-1 drug for weight loss, it will continue to be covered if your pharmacy provider or prescriber submits a PA request and it is approved, due to federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit requirements.

**Note:** This is also true for all members who are younger than 21 years, even if they are not enrolled in CCS.

#### **8. What do I do if I am denied my GLP-1 drug?**

Medi-Cal members who receive a Notice of Action (NOA) denying coverage for GLP-1 drugs have the right to a State Hearing. Generally, Medi-Cal members have 90 days from the date of the NOA to submit a written request to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for a State Hearing, as communicated in the State Hearing rights provided with the NOA. Medi-Cal members who are taking GLP-1 drugs on or before January 1, 2026, who

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request a State Hearing within 10 days of receiving an NOA denying continued coverage may continue to receive GLP-1 drugs pending a State Hearing decision until the earlier of:

- The end of the period covered by their current PA; or
- The date a hearing decision is rendered; or
- The date on which the hearing is otherwise withdrawn or closed.

A State Hearing may be requested by contacting CDSS, State Hearings Division:

[State Hearings](#)

P.O. Box 944243, MS 21-37

Sacramento, CA 94244-2430

Toll Free: 1-800-743-8525 or 1-855-795-0634

Fax: 1-833-281-0905

**9. If I already have an approved PA for a GLP-1 drug, can I still get the drug after January 1, 2026?**

The policy as of January 1, 2026, is that if you take a GLP-1 drug for weight loss, you cannot get it starting January 1, 2026, even if you already have an approved PA.

If you have an approved PA for Wegovy, Zepbound, or Saxenda for weight loss or any health problem, it will expire on December 31, 2025.

**10. Can I choose to pay for a GLP-1 drug myself?**

Yes. After January 1, 2026, you can pay out of pocket for GLP-1 drugs at the pharmacy. You might also be able to use discount cards that work for Medi-Cal members, which could help lower the cost.

**Note:** Medi-Cal Rx will not pay you back for GLP-1 drugs you buy yourself if they are used for weight loss since it is no longer a covered benefit as of January 1, 2026.

**11. What did Medi-Cal Rx do to get members ready for this change?**

Medi-Cal Rx continues to share information with pharmacy providers, prescribers, and other stakeholders about the upcoming changes to coverage for GLP-1 drugs used for weight loss.

Medi-Cal Rx also sent an [Important Plan Information](#) letter to all Medi-Cal Rx members announcing this update.

**12. I received a letter saying GLP-1 drugs will no longer be covered for weight loss. I do not take this drug; why did I get this letter?**

Medi-Cal Rx sent the [Important Plan Information](#) letter to all Medi-Cal Rx members. If you do not take a GLP-1 drug, you do not need to take action.

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### 13. How can I learn more about these changes?

You can visit the [Medi-Cal Rx Member Portal](#) to review the following resources:

- A copy of the [Important Plan Information](#) letter that was mailed to all members
- *Changes to GLP-1 Drug Coverage – Effective January 1, 2026* flyer
- This *GLP-1 Drugs – Medi-Cal Rx Members' Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* document

You can also contact Medi-Cal Rx via the following methods:

- **By Phone:** Call the CSC at 1-800-977-2273, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.
- **By Email:** Send an email to the Medi-Cal Rx Education and Outreach team at [MediCalRxEducationOutreach@primetherapeutics.com](mailto:MediCalRxEducationOutreach@primetherapeutics.com).
- **By Message or Chat:** Visit the [Contact Us](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#).