



MASSACHUSETTS

COVERAGE CHANGE: GLP-1 MEDICATIONS



Starting on January 1 and as members renew their benefits throughout 2026, we will only authorize coverage for GLP-1s for type 2 diabetes. We will no longer cover GLP-1 medications (injectable or oral) that are indicated primarily for the treatment of obesity.

- GLP-1s such as Saxenda (liraglutide injection), Wegovy, and Zepbound, will be excluded from member benefits—even if we've covered the medication in the past or it's been authorized. These medications are also excluded from coverage for other FDA-approved conditions, such as sleep apnea or heart disease.
- The change applies to members who use the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Formulary and the Standard Control with Advanced Control Specialty Formulary.

Members' authorizations for the medication will expire on their effective date of this change (not the date on their original approval). We can't make exceptions to cover these medications, unless an employer has purchased a rider to continue coverage for the medication (authorization is required).

WHY WE'RE MAKING THIS CHANGE

The difficult decision to exclude coverage is due to the high cost of these medications. Although they are effective for weight loss, GLP-1s are a driver of rising premiums. If we continue covering GLP-1s for weight loss, our forecasts show these drugs will drive an unsustainable increase in the cost of medical coverage for everyone—whether they take the medication or not. With these factors in mind, we're acting now to protect the affordability of our health plans while continuing to provide members with essential coverage.

SUPPORTING YOUR PATIENTS

We understand this may be a sensitive, challenging topic for your patients as many have experienced great success using these medications. They may turn to you for support. On the next page, we provide some resources that may help.

Questions?

For questions about authorizations, contact Pharmacy Operations at **1-800-366-7778**.



For general questions, contact Network Management and Credentialing Services at **1-800-316-BLUE (2583)**.

TALKING TO OUR MEMBERS

Staying on the medication

For members who wish to stay on the medication, patient assistance programs and pharmacy discount services/platforms may be available to help lower costs. Drug manufacturers may provide cost assistance and savings if patients buy direct. Patients may check manufacturers' websites to learn more. Using health financial accounts (like HSAs, HRAs, and FSAs) could also help with out-of-pocket expenses.

Weight loss support

You may suggest that members consult our GLP-1 coverage member resources page (refer to link below) to help them understand this benefit change and find alternatives.

We have a variety of weight-loss support options for those who've been diagnosed with obesity or want to lose weight, including:

- Online programs that offer clinically proven support for weight management, nutrition, stress management, and more.
- Mental health and nutritional counseling with health care professionals, available both virtually and in-person.
- Reimbursements and discounts for gym memberships, yoga/Pilates/tai chi classes, fitness equipment, weight-management programs, and more.
- One-on-one support from our medically trained Care Managers.
- Bariatric surgery for members with health risks from obesity.



MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

We're communicating this change to members who are taking GLP-1s for all clinical indications other than type 2 diabetes approximately 60 days prior to the benefit change. The letter explains how the change will affect them, it includes frequently asked questions and other weight loss resources, and it encourages them to contact their prescriber.

Member resources



[GLP-1 member resources page](#)



[Sign in at bluecrossma.org](https://bluecrossma.org)



Call Member Service at the number on Blue Cross ID card