

Wegovy (semaglutide)

Override(s)	Approval Duration
Prior Authorization Quantity Limit	<p><u>Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH) in Adults:</u> Injection: 1 year</p> <p><u>Cardiovascular Risk Reduction for Adults:</u> Injection or tablets: 1 year</p> <p><u>Chronic Weight Management: Adults</u> Injection or tablets Initial: 28 weeks Continuation: 1 year</p> <p><u>Chronic Weight Management: Adolescents</u> Injection Initial: 28 weeks Continuation: 1 year</p>

Medications	Quantity Limit
<p><u>Wegovy (semaglutide) pens</u> 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg, 7.2 mg</p> <p><u>Wegovy (semaglutide) tablets</u> 1.5 mg, 4 mg, 9 mg, 25 mg</p>	May be subject to quantity limit

APPROVAL CRITERIA

Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection for Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH) in Adults

Initial requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) for adults may be approved if the following criteria are met:

- I. Individual is 18 years of age or older; **AND**
- II. Individual has a diagnosis of noncirrhotic, nonalcoholic metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH), formerly known as nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH); **AND**

III. Documentation is provided that diagnosis has been verified by [A or (B and C and D)]:

A. Presence of steatosis is based on one of the following imaging tests within the past year:

1. FibroScan Vibration-controlled Transient Elastography (VCTE); **OR**
2. Magnetic Resonance Elastography (MRE);

OR

B. Liver biopsy within the past 3 years; **AND**

C. NAS score is greater than or equal to (>) 4; **AND**

D. There is a score of at least 1 in two or more of the following NAS components below:

1. Steatosis
2. Hepatocellular ballooning
3. Lobular inflammation;

AND

IV. Documentation is provided that individual has moderate to advanced liver fibrosis consistent with stages F2 or F3 fibrosis; **AND**

V. Individual has had a trial and inadequate response to a healthcare provider supervised, comprehensive lifestyle program that includes diet management, exercise, and other lifestyle modifications, such as reduced alcohol consumption. Inadequate response is defined as worsening or no improvement compared to baseline in NAS score, NAS scoring components (steatosis, hepatocellular ballooning, lobular inflammation), or fibrosis stage (AASLD 2023, AACE/AASLD 2022); **AND**

VI. Individual will continue to be maintained on a healthcare provider supervised, comprehensive lifestyle program that includes diet management, exercise, and other lifestyle modifications, such as reduced alcohol consumption.

Continuation requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) for adults may be approved if the following criteria are met:

I. Documentation is provided that individual has improvement from baseline in NAFLD Activity Score (NAS) without worsening of fibrosis stage; **OR**

II. Documentation is provided for one of the following:

- A. Individual has improvement from baseline in fibrosis stage with no worsening of NAS; **OR**
- B. Individual has improvement from baseline in fibrosis stage based on one of the following tests:
 1. FibroScan Vibration-controlled Transient Elastography (VCTE); **OR**
 2. Magnetic Resonance Elastography (MRE);

AND

III. Individual will continue to be maintained on a healthcare provider supervised, comprehensive lifestyle program that includes diet management, exercise, and other lifestyle modifications, such as reduced alcohol consumption;

AND

IV. Documentation is provided that individual has not progressed to stage 4 fibrosis (i.e., presence of cirrhosis).

Requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) for adults may not be approved for any of the following:

- I. Individual has a BMI of less than 18.5 kg/m² (CDC 2024); **OR**
- II. Individual with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2) or a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC); **OR**
- III. Individual is using in combination with another semaglutide-containing agent or GLP-1 receptor agonist [including but not limited to semaglutide (Ozempic, Rybelsus), tirzepatide (Zepbound, Mounjaro), liraglutide (Saxenda, Victoza), orforglipron (Foundayo)].

Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection or tablets (all strengths) for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction for Adults

Requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection or tablets (all strengths) for cardiovascular risk reduction for adults may be approved if the following criteria are met:

- I. Documentation is provided that individual has established cardiovascular disease evidenced by at least one of the following:
 - A. Previous myocardial infarction; **OR**
 - B. Previous stroke (ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke); **OR**
 - C. Symptomatic peripheral arterial disease (as evidenced by intermittent claudication with ankle-brachial index <0.85 (at rest), peripheral arterial revascularization procedure, or amputation due to atherosclerotic disease);

AND

- II. Documentation is provided that individual has a HbA1c less than 6.5% (48 mmol/mol);

AND

- III. Documentation* is provided that individual has a BMI greater than or equal to 27 kg/m² at initiation of therapy for cardiovascular risk reduction (**documentation of BMI is required within 90 days of the request*);

AND

- IV. Documentation is provided that individual has been established on guideline-directed medication therapy (GDMT) with the following agents unless not tolerated or not clinically warranted:
 - A. Antiplatelet and/or anticoagulant therapy (including but not limited to aspirin, clopidogrel, apixaban (Eliquis), rivaroxaban (Xarelto), or other anticoagulants) (Kleindorfer 2021; Amsterdam 2014; O'Gara 2013; Hirsch 2005); **AND**
 - B. High-intensity statin or statin therapy at the maximum tolerated dose (atorvastatin 40 mg or higher or rosuvastatin 20 mg or higher) (Kleindorfer 2021; Grundy 2018; Amsterdam 2014; O'Gara 2013; Hirsch 2005); **AND**
 - C. Blood pressure lowering therapy (including but not limited to angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor, angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB), calcium

channel blocker (CCB), thiazide diuretics) (Kleindorfer 2021; Whelton 2018; Amsterdam 2014; O'Gara 2013; Hirsch 2005); **AND**

- D. For individuals with a history of myocardial infarction, beta blocker (Amsterdam 2014; O'Gara 2013; Smith 2011);

AND

- V. Individual will be using Wegovy as add on therapy to GDMT;

AND

- VI. Individual will be using Wegovy in combination with healthy lifestyle counseling (Label);

AND

- VII. Individual will be using Wegovy in combination with a reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity (Label).

Requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection or tablets (all strengths) for cardiovascular risk reduction for adults may not be approved for any of the following:

- I. Individual has a BMI of less than 18.5 kg/m² (CDC 2024); **OR**
- II. Individual with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2) or a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC); **OR**
- III. Individual is using in combination with another semaglutide-containing agent or GLP-1 receptor agonist [including but not limited to semaglutide (Ozempic, Rybelsus), tirzepatide (Zepbound, Mounjaro), liraglutide (Saxenda, Victoza), orforglipron (Foundayo)].

Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg, 7.2 mg injection or tablets (all strengths) for Chronic Weight Management for Adults

When member's benefit covers weight loss drugs and requires prior authorization:

- I. Initial requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg, 7.2 mg injection or tablets (all strengths) for chronic weight management for adults may be approved if the following criteria are met:
 - A. Individual is 18 years of age or older and one of the following:
 - 1. Documentation* is provided that individual has a BMI of 30 kg/m² or greater (**documentation of BMI is required within 90 days of the request*); **OR**
 - 2. Documentation* is provided that individual has a BMI of greater than or equal to 27 kg/m² and at least one of the following weight-related comorbid conditions (**documentation of BMI is required within 90 days of the request*):

- a. Hypertension defined as treated hypertension or with systolic blood pressure (SBP) ≥ 130 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure ≥ 80 mmHg; **OR**
- b. Type II Diabetes Mellitus; **OR**
- c. Dyslipidemia defined as treated dyslipidemia or has low-density lipoprotein (LDL) ≥ 160 mg/dL (4.1 mmol/L) or triglycerides ≥ 150 mg/dL (1.7 mmol/L), or high-density lipoprotein (HDL) < 40 mg/dL (1.0 mmol/L) for men or HDL < 50 mg/dL (1.3 mmol/L) for women; **OR**
- d. Obstructive sleep apnea (as a result of having a BMI of 27 kg/m² or greater); **OR**
- e. Cardiovascular disease (example includes ischemic cardiovascular disease, New York Heart Association (NYHA) defined heart failure);

AND

- B. Individual has tried but was unsuccessful losing weight through a healthcare provider supervised comprehensive lifestyle program for at least 6 months, prior to request for drug therapy, that included ALL the following:
 - 1. A calorie deficit of approximately 30% (i.e. 500 kcals relative to their estimated total energy expenditure) in calories per day has been achieved by the individual for at least 6 months; **AND**
 - 2. An exercise goal of completing at least 150 minutes of exercise per week has been achieved for at least 6 months; **OR**
 - a. Exercise requirements cannot be met due to clinical limitations (including but not limited to cardiovascular conditions, physical limitations, fall risk);
- AND**
- 3. Individual was unable to achieve at least a 5% weight reduction with calorie deficit goals, exercise goals, and behavior therapy;

OR

- C. Individual has a diagnosis of New York Heart Association Class III or IV heart failure;
- OR**
- D. Individual has moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea with an apnea-hypopnea index (AHI) score of greater than or equal to 15;
- OR**
- E. Individual has a BMI of 40 kg/m² or greater;

AND

- F. Individual is currently maintained on a healthcare provider supervised lifestyle program that includes all of the following:
 - 1. An individualized calculated calorie deficit of approximately 30% (or 500 kcals relative to their estimated total energy expenditure) in calories per day (AACE 2016/AGA 2022); **AND**
 - 2. Completing at least 150 minutes of exercise per week (AACE 2016/AGA 2022); **OR**

- a. Exercise requirements cannot be met due to clinical limitations (including but not limited to cardiovascular conditions, physical limitations, fall risk);

AND

G. Individual is NOT receiving two or more medications for weight loss at the same time; **AND**

H. Healthcare provider has consulted with individual regarding risks (including but not limited to adverse drug events), benefits, realistic expectations associated with the requested drug and the need for long-term follow-up and adherence to behavior modifications.

II. Continuation requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg, 7.2 mg injection or tablets (all strengths) for chronic weight management for adults may be approved if ALL of the following criteria are met:

A. Individual is 18 years of age or older and one of the following:

1. Documentation is provided that at initiation of therapy, individual had a BMI of 30 kg/m² or greater; **OR**
2. Documentation is provided that at initiation of therapy, individual had a BMI of greater than or equal to 27 kg/m² and at least one of the following weight-related comorbid conditions:
 - a. Hypertension defined as treated hypertension or with systolic blood pressure (SBP) ≥130 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure ≥80 mmHg; **OR**
 - b. Type II Diabetes Mellitus; **OR**
 - c. Dyslipidemia defined as treated dyslipidemia or has low-density lipoprotein (LDL) ≥160 mg/dL (4.1 mmol/L) or triglycerides ≥150 mg/dL (1.7 mmol/L), or high-density lipoprotein (HDL) <40 mg/dL (1.0 mmol/L) for men or HDL <50 mg/dL (1.3 mmol/L) for women; **OR**
 - d. Obstructive sleep apnea (as a result of having a BMI of 27 kg/m² or greater); **OR**
 - e. Cardiovascular disease (example includes ischemic cardiovascular disease, New York Heart Association (NYHA) defined heart failure);

AND

B. Documentation[^] is provided that individual has achieved/maintained an initial 5% weight loss ([^]*documentation showing the achieved/maintained 5% weight loss is required within 90 days of each continuation/subsequent request*); **AND**

C. Individual continues to be engaged in a comprehensive lifestyle program which includes:

1. Individual is currently maintained on an individualized calculated calorie deficit of approximately 30% (or 500 kcals relative to their estimated total energy expenditure) in calories per day (AACE 2016/AGA 2022); **AND**
2. Individual is currently maintaining 150 minutes of exercise per week (AACE 2016/AGA 2022); **OR**

- a. Exercise requirements cannot be met due to clinical limitations (including but not limited to cardiovascular conditions, physical limitations, fall risk);

AND

- D. Individual is NOT receiving two or more medications for weight loss at the same time; **AND**
- E. Healthcare provider has consulted with individual regarding risks (including but not limited to adverse drug events), benefits, realistic expectations associated with the requested drug and the need for long-term follow-up and adherence to behavior modifications.

Requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg, 7.2 mg injection or tablets (all strengths) for chronic weight management may not be approved for any of the following:

- I. Individual has a BMI of less than 18.5 kg/m² (CDC 2024); **OR**
- II. Individual with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2) or a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC); **OR**
- III. Individual is using in combination with another semaglutide-containing agent or GLP-1 receptor agonist [including but not limited to semaglutide (Ozempic, Rybelsus), tirzepatide (Zepbound, Mounjaro), liraglutide (Saxenda, Victoza), orforglipron (Foundayo)].

Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection for Chronic Weight Management for Adolescents

When member's benefit covers weight loss drugs and requires prior authorization:

- I. Initial requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection for adolescents may be approved if the following criteria are met:
 - A. Individual is 12 to 17 years of age; **AND**
 - B. Documentation* is provided that individual has a BMI in the 95th percentile or greater standardized for age and sex (**documentation of BMI is required within 90 days of the request*) (Label); **AND**
 - C. Individual has tried but was unsuccessful losing weight through intensive health behavior and lifestyle treatment for at least 6 months, prior to request for drug therapy (AAP 2023), that included ALL the following:
 - 1. Individual and caregiver have been utilizing healthy nutrition and behavior counseling for at least 6 months; **AND**
 - 2. Individual was unable to achieve adequate weight reduction with health nutrition and behavior counseling alone;

AND

- D. Individual is currently maintained on their healthy nutrition and behavior counseling; **AND**

- E. Individual is NOT receiving two or more medications for weight loss at the same time; **AND**
 - F. Healthcare provider has consulted with individual regarding risks (including but not limited to adverse drug events), benefits, realistic expectations associated with the requested drug and the need for long-term follow-up and adherence to behavior modifications.
- II. Continuation requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection in adolescents (12 to 17 years of age) may be approved if the following criteria are met:
- A. Documentation[^] is provided that individual has achieved/maintained an initial >4% reduction from baseline BMI (*^documentation showing the achieved/maintained weight loss is required within 90 days of each continuation/subsequent request*) (Styne 2017); **AND**
 - B. Individual and caregiver are attending healthy nutrition and behavior counseling; **AND**
 - C. Individual is NOT receiving two or more medications for weight loss at the same time; **AND**
 - D. Healthcare provider has consulted with individual regarding risks (including but not limited to adverse drug events), benefits, realistic expectations associated with the requested drug and the need for long-term follow-up and adherence to behavior modifications.

Requests for Wegovy (semaglutide) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg injection for chronic weight management may not be approved for any of the following:

- I. Individual has a BMI of less than 18.5 kg/m² (CDC 2024); **OR**
- II. Individual with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2) or a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC); **OR**
- III. Individual is using in combination with another semaglutide-containing agent or GLP-1 receptor agonist [including but not limited to semaglutide (Ozempic, Rybelsus), tirzepatide (Zepbound, Mounjaro), liraglutide (Saxenda, Victoza), orforglipron (Founday)].

Key References:

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International Obesity Task Force BMI Cut-offs for Obesity by Sex and Age for Pediatric Patients Aged 12 Years and Older (Cole Criteria); from *Saxenda Package Insert* (2020)

Age (years)	Body Mass Index 30 kg/m ²
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	Males	Females
12	26.02	26.67
12.5	26.43	27.24
13	26.84	27.76
13.5	27.25	28.20
14	27.63	28.57
14.5	27.98	28.87
15	28.30	29.11
15.5	28.60	29.29
16	28.88	29.43
16.5	29.14	29.56
17	29.41	29.69
17.5	29.70	29.84

BMI Percentiles by Age and Sex for Pediatric Patients Aged 12 years and Older; from *Qsymia Package Insert (2022)* and *Wegovy Package Insert (2023)*

Age (years)	95 th Percentile BMI Value	
	Male	Female
12	24.2	25.3
12.5	24.7	25.8
13	25.2	26.3
13.5	25.6	26.8
14	26.0	27.3
14.5	26.5	27.7
15	26.8	28.1
15.5	27.2	28.5
16	27.6	28.9
16.5	27.9	29.3
17	28.3	29.6
17.5	28.6	30.0

BMI Percentiles by Age and Sex for Pediatric Patients Aged 12 years and Older; from *Wegovy Package Insert (2023)*

Age (years)	95 th Percentile BMI Value	
	Male	Female
12	24.2	25.2
12.5	24.7	25.7
13	25.1	26.3
13.5	25.6	26.8
14	26.0	27.2
14.5	26.4	27.7
15	26.8	28.1
15.5	27.2	28.5
16	27.5	28.9
16.5	27.9	29.3
17	28.2	29.6
17.5	28.6	30.0

Federal and state laws or requirements, contract language, and Plan utilization management programs or policies may take precedence over the application of this clinical criteria.

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