

Updates to Ozempic and Rybelsus (semaglutide) coverage coming soon



Coming fall 2023, we're adding Ozempic and Rybelsus to Canada Life's prior authorization drug program.

Innovation and improvements in managing diabetes are helping many Canadians reach better health outcomes.

Two great examples of this are Ozempic and Rybelsus. These are brand name semaglutide drugs that help with diabetes. Recently, these drugs have grown in popularity due to their high success in helping with diabetes management.

These drugs have also become popular for helping with weight management, though diabetes treatment is the only medical condition they are indicated for by Health Canada.

Recognizing the success of these drugs for multiple uses, the manufacturer of Ozempic created Wegovy – a new semaglutide medication indicated for weight management that's expected to come to Canada at the end of the year.

What are we doing?

We're adding Ozempic, Rybelsus and Wegovy to our prior authorization drug program. We'll also add new drugs in this category to our prior authorization list as they become available. Adding these drugs to our prior authorization program helps to:

- Make sure all versions of semaglutide medications are available to members who need it
- Keep the cost of drug plans affordable for you

What does this mean for members?

Members currently taking Ozempic or Rybelsus to treat diabetes

This change won't affect these members. We'll continue to provide normal coverage with no action necessary for members.

Members currently taking Ozempic or Rybelsus to treat a condition other than diabetes

Starting this fall, affected members will get a letter explaining this change in coverage. They'll have a grace period to discuss new treatment options with their health care provider.

Members who want to start taking Ozempic or Rybelsus

These members will need to submit a prior authorization form when prescribed Ozempic or Rybelsus. Their prescriber must show the member is using the medication for diabetes. They'll also need to note which other diabetes medications the member has tried before.

What does this mean for you?

There's no action required on your end. If you have any questions, contact your Canada Life group representative.