

FEHB weight-loss prescription drug coverage

Medications for weight-loss

Obesity is a serious chronic disease, and the prevalence of obesity continues to increase in the United States. Obesity-related conditions include heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer. These are among the leading causes of preventable, premature death.¹

When behavioral changes such as diet and exercise alone are not enough, weight-loss medications are a treatment option that can help people achieve meaningful weight loss and take steps toward better health. Sustained weight loss can have important health benefits, such as lowering blood pressure, blood sugar and triglyceride levels.²

The member experience

Before prescribing a medication, a doctor will consider their patient's health history, the possible side effects and any potential interaction of FDA-approved weight-loss drugs with other medications. The combination of weight-loss medication and lifestyle changes may result in greater weight loss than lifestyle changes do alone.

To obtain these medications, members must:

- Receive a prescription from their physician
- Pay their cost-share or copayment.
- Participate in step therapy for brand drugs when generic drugs are available. Step therapy is the practice of beginning drug therapy with the most cost-effective (typically generic) drug and progress to other more costly (brand) or alternative drugs, only if necessary.
- Meet prior authorization criteria for select medications.

Weight-loss prescription drug options

Covered drugs:

Generic	Brand
Benzphetamine	Contrave®
Diethylpropion	Lomaira™
Phendimetrazine	Qsymia®
Phentermine	Saxenda (injectable)
	Wegovy (injectable)

For current information on pharmacy coverage, check the Approved Drug List on priorityhealth.com/formulary.

Prior authorization criteria

Preferred Agent(s):

Wegovy
Saxenda

Non-Preferred Agent(s):

Not applicable

Before this drug is covered, the patient must meet all of the following requirements:

- For adults, must be at least 18 years of age; **AND**
- Have a BMI of at least 35 kg/m²; **AND**
- Current weight (within 30 days) must be submitted to Priority Health; **AND**
- The medication must be prescribed by a health care provider who has an established relationship with the member and has seen the member in person; **AND**
- Provider must submit documentation of active participation for a minimum of 6 months in a covered PH lifestyle modification program or an alternative concurrent lifestyle modification program (e.g. complete food diaries, exercise logs, program receipts, app participation, etc.) if member does not have access to a covered PH program.

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- For pediatrics, must be 12 to 17 years of age; **AND**
 - Have a BMI of at least 95th percentile, standardized for age and sex; **AND**
 - Current weight (within 30 days) must be submitted to Priority Health; **AND**
 - The medication must be prescribed by a health care provider who has an established relationship with the member and has seen the member in person; **AND**
 - Provider must submit documentation of active participation for a minimum of 6 months in a covered PH lifestyle modification program or an alternative concurrent lifestyle modification program (e.g. complete food diaries, exercise logs, program receipts, app participation, etc.) if member does not have access to a covered PH program.

For continuation of coverage, the patient must have met the following requirements:

Has demonstrated a beneficial response to therapy compared to pretreatment baseline weight, defined as:

- For adults, member has maintained at least a 5% weight loss from baseline following the initial 6 month period (10% weight loss from baseline following the initial 12 months) AND requires documentation of continued participation in a lifestyle modification program. Current weight (within 30 days) and BMI of at least 18.5 kg/m² must be submitted to the plan for review.
- For pediatrics, member has maintained at least a 5% reduction in BMI from baseline following the initial 6 month period (10% reduction in BMI from baseline following the initial 12 months) AND requires documentation of continued participation in a lifestyle modification program. Current weight (within 30 days) and BMI-for-age percentile of at least 5th percentile must be submitted to the plan for review.

Duration of Approval:

6 months

Note: Medications in this category are only covered for weight loss (applies to Priority Health Federal Employees Health Benefits Formulary). Saxenda/Wegovy will not be covered in combination with other weight loss products or other GLP-1 receptor agonists.