

DRUG SHORTAGES OZEMPIC® (SEMAGLUTIDE) 2MG and 4MG PEN

As you are aware, due to the world-wide shortage of 4mg Ozempic® (semaglutide) pens, there has been a limited supply of both the 2mg (DIN 02471477) and 4 mg (DIN 02471469) pens, by the manufacturer and wholesaler. The supply of the 2mg pen is not adequate to cover the market demand for the 4mg pen. As a result, pharmacies are encouraged to continue to **dispense one 2mg pen per prescription** (to preserve the supply of 2mg pens) or **dispense one 4mg pen per prescription**.

Pharmacists are encouraged to work closely with patients and their prescribers to discuss appropriate treatment options for ongoing therapy. This may include switching to another drug, many of which are benefits listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary or approved under Exception Drug Status (EDS), while other drugs may be non-benefits.

Additional information:

- Saskatchewan Formulary listings: <https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca>.
- RxFiles: <https://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles>
- MedSask: <https://medsask.usask.ca/professional-practice/drug-shortages>

The Ministry of Health continues to work closely with Health Canada, manufacturers, wholesalers, and other provinces, to protect drug supply and reduce impacts to patients. As of the date of this bulletin, the Health Canada website <https://www.drugshortagescanada.ca> indicates that supply of the 4mg pen is estimated to be available October 18, 2023. Please refer to this website for the most up-to-date information. The manufacturer is also taking steps to increase manufacturing capacity to meet increased global demand.

Will a Quantity Days Supply Exception (QDSE) be approved for Ozempic®?

- QDSE will not be approved for an increased quantity or more frequent prescription fills of Ozempic® 2mg pens, in place of 4mg pens.
- QDSE will not be approved for vacation supply for both 2mg and 4mg pens at this time.

What criteria must be met for Ozempic® to be a Drug Plan benefit?

Ozempic® has Exception Drug Status (EDS) listing status, meaning certain medical criteria must be met: *For the treatment of type 2 diabetes in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea, when diet and exercise plus dual therapy with metformin and a sulfonylurea do not achieve adequate glycemic control.*

Are the alternate drugs listed on medSask available for coverage through the Drug Plan?

Rybelsus®, Trulicity®, and Victoza® are not eligible Drug Plan benefits. However, other alternatives may be listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary or approved under Exception Drug Status.

Reminder

Many factors impact drug supply, such as lack of active ingredient, production issues/delays, and/or increased demand.

Who to Call:**If you or your patients have any questions, please call:**

- Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch at 306-787-3317 (Regina) or 1-800-667-7581.

Information is also available on the following websites:

- The secure Drug Plan Web page for pharmacies (site where paylists and bulletins are listed): <https://www.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca>