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New Medicare GLP-1 Bridge Program May Help Lower Medication Costs

GLP-1 medications are a class of drugs used to treat conditions such as type 2 diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and other health concerns. Their popularity has grown significantly in recent years, particularly for their effectiveness in promoting weight loss.

For people enrolled in Medicare Part D, these types of covered by Medicare Part D medications prescribed solely for weight loss are generally not. Part D plans typically cover GLP-1 medications only when they are prescribed for other approved medical conditions.

Beginning July 1, 2026, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge Program, a short-term nationwide demonstration project designed to help eligible Medicare beneficiaries access certain GLP-1 medications for a flat monthly copayment of \$50.

The Bridge Program covers the following medications:

- Foundayo® (tablet)
- Wegovy® (injection or tablet)
- Zepbound® (KwikPen® only)

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge Program, you must:

- Have Medicare Part D coverage through either a stand-alone Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or a Medicare Advantage plan that includes prescription drug coverage.
- Not be eligible to receive a GLP-1 medication through your current Medicare drug plan.
- Not have type 2 diabetes, moderate-to-severe sleep apnea, or fatty liver disease.
- Be at least 18 years old and meet **one** of the following criteria:
 - Have a body mass index (BMI) of 35 or higher.
 - Have a BMI of 30 or higher and either certain types of heart failure, difficult-to-control high blood pressure, or chronic kidney disease (stage 3a or higher).
 - Have a BMI of 27 or higher and either prediabetes or a history of heart attack, stroke, or blocked arteries in the arms or legs.

How to Enroll

If you think you may qualify, talk with your doctor about whether a GLP-1 medication is appropriate for you. Your doctor can determine if you meet the program requirements and, if appropriate, send a prescription to your pharmacy.

The pharmacy will need your Medicare ID number to process the prescription. Once your eligibility is confirmed, your doctor must submit the required documentation to Medicare for approval. After approval, you can pick up your medication from the pharmacy and pay \$50 for a one-month supply.

The Medicare GLP-1 Bridge Program is currently scheduled to continue through 2027.