



# The Point

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## GLP-1 SHORTAGES

Many patients have been experiencing difficulty obtaining commonly used GLP-1s for the last several months, starting with the higher doses of semaglutide (Ozempic), spreading to the higher doses of dulaglutide (Trulicity), now trickling down to lower doses of both agents. Supply is erratic across pharmacies and widespread across the US. This is understandably frustrating to all. Shortages in supply, worsened by increasing demand for these agents, are not expected to resolve for at least several more months into 2023.

Within the class, these agents have similar mild side effects that often go away, such as nausea, diarrhea/constipation, bloating, heartburn. All GLP1 commonly reduce appetite, increase satiety and promote weight loss. Vomiting and severe abdominal pain are uncommon; bothersome side effects may require stopping the medication. The new GLP1/GIP dual agonist tirzepatide (Mounjaro) tends to have more nausea, but also more A1C lowering and weight loss potential.

It's hard to keep everything straight. Here's the skinny:

### **Approved for T2DM:**

liraglutide (Victoza) 0.6 mg, 1.2 mg, 1.8 mg SQ QD

semaglutide (Ozempic) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg SQ weekly

oral semaglutide (Rybelsus) 3 mg, 7 mg, 14 mg qAM on empty stomach

dulaglutide (Trulicity) 0.75 mg, 1.5 mg, 3 mg, 4.5 mg SQ weekly

exenatide (Bydureon) 2 mg SQ weekly

[GLP-1/GIP] tirzepatide (Mounjaro) 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 7.5 mg, 10 mg, 12.5 mg, 15 mg SQ weekly

### **Approved for weight loss indication only:**

liraglutide (Saxenda) 0.6 mg, 1.2 mg, 1.8 mg, 2.4 mg, 3 mg SQ QD

semaglutide (Wegovy) 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg SQ weekly

**WHAT TO DO? Though not ideal, here are some tips to temporize until shortage and supply chain problems are resolved:**

- Switch to a lower dose of the same medication
- Switch to once daily liraglutide (Victoza)
- Switch to oral semaglutide (Rybelsus)
- If the patient has a weight loss indication (typically BMI > 30 or BMI > 27 with comorbidities), switch to semaglutide (Wegovy) or liraglutide (Saxenda), *coverage limited*
- Switch to the new GLP1/GIP agonist tirzepatide (Mounjaro), *coverage limited to some Medicare part D plans at this time*

**Remember that insurance coverage varies:**

**HSF** covers liraglutide (Victoza), PA for exenatide (Bydureon). *Weight loss GLPs are restricted to Weight Management Clinic*

**Healthy Worker** covers liraglutide (Victoza), semaglutide (Ozempic or Rybelsus)

**Medi-cal Rx** covers the most: liraglutide (Victoza), semaglutide (Ozempic or Rybelsus), dulaglutide (Trulicity), exenatide (Bydureon). GLP1s for weight loss--liraglutide (Saxenda) and semaglutide (Wegovy)--*restricted to chronic weight management*

**Medicare part D** plans vary in coverage of GLP1s including for tirzepatide (Mounjaro)



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