

In line with industry standards, drug plan carriers have been transitioning group benefit plans to address increased utilization of particular drugs, in particular a class of drugs called GLP-1 receptor agonists*. Beneva will be implementing measures to ensure optimal drug cost control and Ongwanada will be following suit. These measures include automated step therapy, where generic drugs or other therapies are tried prior to specific brand name therapies, and prior authorization by a prescribing physician.

The *GLP-1 receptor agonist* class of drugs includes several intended for glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes. In recent months, Ozempic®, a member of this class of drugs, has been making headlines for its effect on weight management. As such, it has been prescribed for an indication which is not compliant with Health Canada's approved indication. Insured individuals with a history of claiming a first-line type 2 diabetes medication will automatically be granted an authorization for future use of drugs from this therapeutic class.

**GLP-1 receptor agonist drugs used for the treatment of type 2 diabetes: OZEMPIC, VICTOZA, TRULICITY, RYBELSUS, XULTOPHY, SOLIQUA, ADLYXINE, MOUNJARO.*

Key dates

February 29, 2024

- Staff whose confirmed type 2 diabetes diagnosis cannot be identified through drug claims will be required to complete a prior authorization form so that their records can be updated accordingly by our pharmacy.
- Staff undergoing treatment with *GLP-1 receptor agonists* for any other indication, such as weight loss, will be granted transitional coverage until **February 29, 2024** inclusively. After that date, claims will be denied. This will be automatically applied, without exception.

If you are using any GLP-1 receptor agonist, including Ozempic, please contact pharmacy by emailing pharmacy@ongwanada.com indicating which first line diabetes therapy (Metformin) you are using. If this is not received by **February 29, 2024**, then prescriptions for *GLP-1 receptor agonists* will not be filled.

Thanks,

Shannon Pierce
Benefits Administrator for Ongwanada.