

# FACT SHEET | What You Need to Know: Medicare to Begin Limited Coverage of GLP-1 Medications

## Medicare will begin limited coverage of GLP-1s for certain beneficiaries beginning July 1, 2026.

Late last year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) [announced](#) the creation of two demonstrations, the longer term Better Approaches to Lifestyle and Nutrition for Comprehensive hEalth (BALANCE) model and the initially short term “Medicare GLP-1 Bridge,” which sought to expand access to GLP-1 weight-loss medication under the Medicare Part D programs. Last month, CMS announced they would not move forward with the BALANCE model and would extend the Bridge demonstration to a period of 18 months. [In May](#), CMS announced additional information regarding the implementation of the Bridge demonstration.

### Here’s What You Need to Know

- The Medicare Bridge Demonstration **will begin July 1, 2026** and go until December 31, 2027.
- Eligible Medicare beneficiaries **will be able to access certain GLP-1 Medications for \$50**. The \$50 copay will not count toward the Part D deductible, nor does it count towards the annual \$2,100 out-of-pocket cap on prescription drug costs.
- The \$50 copay is **only for weight loss**. If you already take a GLP-1 for Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, or sleep apnea, you’ll continue to access your medication through your Part D plan.
- In order to access these medications, **you must be enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan**, which covers prescriptive drugs. You also must have a body mass index (BMI) of 27 and have a comorbid condition, or a BMI of 35 or higher.
- The demonstration provides **coverage for the injectable formulations of Wegovy, the KwikiPen formulation of Zepbound, and the Foundayo pill**.
- The prescription process under the Bridge Demonstration is slightly unusual. Instead of going through your Part D plan, **you will need prior authorization**. Your doctor will send the prescription to a central system. Once approved, you will be able to pick up your prescription for \$50 at your pharmacy.
- **Doctors do not need to be enrolled Medicare providers** to write a prescription or submit a prior authorization request.

#### Resources

- CMS: [Medicare GLP-1 Bridge](#)
- CMS Press Release: [Coming Soon: CMS to Provide \\$50 Monthly Access to GLP-1 Medications for Medicare Beneficiaries](#)
- NPR: [A new Medicare option for weight loss drugs is coming: Here's what to know](#)