

Semaglutide (WEGOVY) Subcutaneous Injection

Conversion Guidance for Weight Management

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VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services, Medical Advisory Panel, and VISN Pharmacist Executives

THE CLINICIAN SHOULD USE THIS GUIDANCE AND INTERPRET IT IN THE CLINICAL CONTEXT OF THE INDIVIDUAL PATIENT.

The Product Information for semaglutide (WEGOVY) should be consulted for detailed prescribing information. Also refer to the Semaglutide (OZEMPIC) Injection Criteria for Use for additional considerations in patients with T2DM.

Abbreviations: BL = baseline; BMI = body mass index; BW = body weight; lira = liraglutide; N = number of patients; sema = semaglutide; T2DM = type 2 diabetes mellitus; Wt = weight

Considerations for Conversion for Weight Management

- Semaglutide (WEGOVY) and liraglutide (SAXENDA) are available non-formulary with criteria for use in weight management. There is no preference for one product over the other and it is not necessary to convert patients doing well and losing weight on liraglutide (SAXENDA).
- The suggested conversion doses below are off-label (with selection of a more conservative conversion dose) and may be considered only if it has been determined to be clinically appropriate for a patient on a case-by-case basis. Conversion dose and/or titration may need to be adjusted based on tolerability, as well as glucose control in a patient with T2DM. All other patients being started on semaglutide (WEGOVY) should be titrated according to the recommended schedule available in the prescribing information. **Patient education will need to be provided.**

Table 1. Conversion from liraglutide (SAXENDA) to semaglutide (WEGOVY) for weight management

If current dose of liraglutide (SAXENDA) is:	Consider initiating and up-titrating semaglutide (WEGOVY) as follows:
3.0 mg subcutaneous once daily	0.5 mg subcutaneous once weekly X 4 weeks
	1.0 mg subcutaneous once weekly X 4 weeks
	1.7 mg subcutaneous once weekly X 4 weeks
	Then 2.4 mg subcutaneous once weekly for maintenance

- Semaglutide (WEGOVY) should primarily be used for patients requiring weight management; semaglutide (OZEMPIC) should not be used for weight management alone.
- The following titration schedule can be followed for patients currently receiving semaglutide (OZEMPIC) subcutaneous injection 1.0 mg once weekly for T2DM who are being converted to semaglutide (WEGOVY) subcutaneous injection once weekly for weight management. Patients treated with semaglutide (OZEMPIC) subcutaneous injection 2.0 mg once weekly may be considered for conversion to semaglutide (WEGOVY) 2.4 mg once weekly, provided the patient has been receiving the 2.0 mg dose of semaglutide (OZEMPIC) for at least 4 weeks. If switching from semaglutide (OZEMPIC) once weekly to semaglutide (WEGOVY) once weekly, the first dose of semaglutide (WEGOVY) is administered 7 days after discontinuing semaglutide (OZEMPIC).

Table 2. Conversion from semaglutide (OZEMPIC) to semaglutide (WEGOVY) for weight management

If current dose of semaglutide (OZEMPIC) is:	Consider initiating and up-titrating semaglutide (WEGOVY) as follows:
1.0 mg subcutaneous once weekly	1.0 mg subcutaneous once weekly (X 4 weeks total OZEMPIC AND/OR WEGOVY)
	1.7 mg subcutaneous once weekly X 4 weeks
	Then 2.4 mg subcutaneous once weekly for maintenance

- The following data are available from a direct comparison trial in patients with overweight or obesity without T2DM, noting efficacy and common side effects:

Table 3. Weight loss and adverse effects of semaglutide subcutaneous and liraglutide subcutaneous at doses for weight management

Trial	Population	Comparator	N	BL BW (kg)	% Change BW ^a	>= 5% Wt Loss from BL ^b	>= 10% Wt Loss from BL	>= 15% Wt Loss from BL	>= 20% Wt Loss from BL	Wt Loss (kg)	Nausea	Vomiting	Diarrhea
Step 8 JAMA 2022 ^c	BMI >= 27 without T2DM	sema 2.4 mg weekly	126	102.5	-15.8	87.2%	70.9%	55.6%	38.5%	-15.3	61.1%	25.4%	27.8%
		lira 3.0 mg daily	127	103.7	-6.4	58.1%	25.6%	12.0%	6.0%	-6.8	59.1%	20.5%	18.1%
		placebo	85	108.8	-1.9	29.5%	15.4%	6.4%	2.6%	-1.6	22.4%	5.9%	25.9%

^a vs. baseline; ^b prespecified exploratory endpoint; ^c Rubino DM, Greenway FL, Khalid U, et al.; for the STEP 8 Investigators. Effect of weekly subcutaneous semaglutide vs daily liraglutide on body weight in adults with overweight or obesity without diabetes. The STEP 8 randomized clinical trial. JAMA 2022;327:138-50.