

# Generic Semaglutide (Ozempic) Launch in Canada

## Overview

On April 28, 2026, Health Canada approved the first generic version of semaglutide. More generic versions are expected to be approved in the coming weeks and months. Once generic semaglutide is available to patients and provinces can confirm it can be substituted for Ozempic, Medavie Blue Cross will enable generic substitution for Ozempic prescriptions. Generic semaglutide is expected to significantly reduce Ozempic spend, as generic pricing may be as low as 35% of the brand-name price.

For current Ozempic patients	New Ozempic patients
<p>Members are encouraged to try generic semaglutide but have the option to stay on brand-name Ozempic if they are willing to pay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Their regular copay; <b>plus</b></li><li>• The price difference between brand Ozempic and the generic</li></ul>	<p>Eligible members will be able to submit claims for generic semaglutide and pay their expected co-pay. If they opt for brand-name Ozempic, they will need to pay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Their regular copay; <b>plus</b></li><li>• The price difference between brand Ozempic and the generic</li></ul>

## FAQ

### What about other GLP-1 drugs, such as Mounjaro?

Currently, there are no other generic GLP-1 drugs approved in Canada. Medavie Blue Cross will continue to ensure brand name GLP-1 drugs are used appropriately, and control costs now that generic semaglutide is available. We will monitor usage and update eligibility criteria if needed.

### Is access to Wegovy, the weight management version of semaglutide, changing?

At this time, generic versions of Wegovy are not approved by Health Canada and therefore not available in Canada. Generic Ozempic will not be approved as a substitute. More information will be provided when a generic equivalent of Wegovy becomes available in the future.

### How will members know if they need to make the switch?

At the pharmacy, the pharmacist will see a message alerting them of the requirement. They will notify the member that they must switch to the generic if they do not choose to pay for the cost difference.

### **Can a member be exempted from generic substitution if their doctor states “no substitution”?**

Members with mandatory generic substitution (MGS) will still be required to pay the cost difference even with “no substitution” written by the prescriber.

### **What if a plan member has an adverse effect to the generic?**

Adverse effects or contraindication to the generic will be rare. However, a prescriber or pharmacist can complete and fax an [Exception Request Form](#) for their patient to Medavie Blue Cross. If approved, the plan member can take Ozempic without paying the cost difference.

### **Would a plan member still be required to meet automated prior authorization to claim generic semaglutide?**

Yes, the member is still required to meet criteria of previously tried diabetes drugs to qualify for coverage.