

## Clinical Policy: Semaglutide (Wegovy)

Reference Number: CP.PMN.295

Effective Date: 06.01.24

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Line of Business: HIM/ICHRA, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

### Description

Semaglutide (Wegovy<sup>®</sup>) is a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist.

### FDA Approved Indication(s)

Wegovy injection and tablets are indicated in combination with a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity:

- To reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, or non-fatal stroke) in adults with established cardiovascular disease (CVD) and either obesity or overweight.
- To reduce excess body weight and maintain weight reduction long term in:
  - Adults with obesity and adults with overweight in the presence of at least one weight-related comorbid condition.
  - Pediatric patients aged 12 years and older with obesity (*Wegovy injection only*).

Wegovy injection is additionally indicated for the treatment of noncirrhotic metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH), formerly known alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), with moderate to advanced liver fibrosis (consistent with stages F2 to F3 fibrosis) in adults. Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon the verification and description of clinical benefit in a confirmatory trial.

Limitation(s) of use: Concomitant use with other semaglutide-containing products or with any other GLP-1 receptor agonist is not recommended.

### Policy/Criteria

*Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.*

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> that Wegovy injection and tablets are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

##### A. Cardiovascular Event Prevention (must meet all):

1. Member has at least one of the following established CVD (a, b, or c):
  - a. History of myocardial infarction;
  - b. History of stroke;
  - c. Symptomatic peripheral arterial disease (PAD) (*see Appendix D*);
2. Age  $\geq$  18 years;

3. Body mass index (BMI)  $\geq 27$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>;
4. Prescriber attestation that member is currently receiving cardiovascular standard of care management (*see Appendix D*);
5. For members with concurrent type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), both of the following (a and b):\*  
*\* For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirements below do not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395*
  - a. Member has received optimal diabetic standard of therapy as evidenced by a trial of  $\geq 3$  consecutive months each of all of the following (i, ii, and iii), unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;\*
    - i. Ozempic<sup>®</sup> or Rybelsus<sup>®</sup>;
    - ii. Trulicity<sup>®</sup>;
    - iii. Liraglutide (generic Victoza<sup>®</sup>);  
*\*Prior authorization may be required*
  - b. If member is currently receiving a GLP-1 receptor agonist and is requesting to switch to Wegovy therapy, medical justification\* supports necessity for Wegovy;  
*\*Intolerance due to common adverse effects of the GLP-1 receptor agonists class such as gastrointestinal symptoms is not considered acceptable medical justification*
6. Wegovy is not prescribed concurrently with other semaglutide-containing products or any other GLP-1 receptor agonist(s);
7. Documentation supports member's participation in a physician-directed weight loss program that involves a reduced calorie diet, increased physical activity, and behavioral modification that meets both of the following (a and b):
  - a. Been actively enrolled in a physician-directed weight loss program for at least 6 months;
  - b. Will continue to be enrolled in a physician-directed weight loss program while concomitantly prescribed Wegovy;
8. Documentation of member's baseline body weight in kg;
9. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. For Wegovy-naïve patients, one of the following (i or ii):
    - i. For Wegovy injection requests, dose does not exceed the following:
      - 1) Week 1 through 4: 0.25 mg once weekly;
      - 2) Week 5 through 8: 0.5 mg once weekly;
      - 3) Week 9 through 12: 1 mg once weekly;
      - 4) Week 13 through 16: 1.7 mg once weekly;
      - 5) Week 17 and onward: 2.4 mg once weekly;
    - ii. For Wegovy tablet requests, dose does not exceed 1 tablet per day and the following:
      - 1) Days 1 through 30: 1.5 mg per day;
      - 2) Days 31 through 60: 4 mg per day;
      - 3) Days 61 through 90: 9 mg per day;
      - 4) Days 91 and onward: 25 mg per day;
  - b. For patient switching between Wegovy injection and tablet, one of the following (i or ii):
    - i. For Wegovy injection requests, all of the following (1, 2, and 3):
      - 1) Member is prescribed or unable to tolerate Wegovy 25 mg tablets;
      - 2) Member is able to tolerate a maintenance dose of  $\geq 1.7$  mg once weekly;

- 3) Dose does not exceed 2.4 mg once weekly;
- ii. For Wegovy tablet requests, all of the following (1, 2, 3, and 4):
  - 1) Member is prescribed or unable to tolerate Wegovy 2.4 mg injection;
  - 2) Member is able to tolerate a maintenance dose of 25 mg per day;
  - 3) Dose does not exceed 25 mg per day;
  - 4) Dose does not exceed 1 tablet per day.

**Approval duration: 6 months**

**B. Weight Management**

1. Use of Wegovy for the treatment of weight management is a benefit exclusion and will not be authorized.

**Approval duration: Not applicable**

**C. Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of MASH (formerly known as NASH);
2. Request is for Wegovy injection;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a hepatologist or gastroenterologist;
4. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
5. MASH with stage F2 or F3 fibrosis is confirmed by one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Liver biopsy within the last 3 years;
  - b. Both of the following assessments within the last 6 months (i and ii; *see Appendix E for examples*):
    - i. Serum-based assessment (e.g., fibrosis-4 [FIB-4], NAFLD fibrosis score [NFS], enhanced liver fibrosis test [ELF]);
    - ii. Imaging-based assessment (e.g., vibration-controlled transient elastography [VCTE], magnetic resonance-based elastography [MRE], magnetic resonance imaging–proton density fat fraction [MRI-PDFF]);
6. For members with concurrent T2DM, member has received optimal diabetic standard of care therapy as evidenced by a trial of  $\geq$  3 consecutive months each of all of the following (a, b, and c), unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced\*\* or all are contraindicated;^\*

*^For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirements below do not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395*

- a. Ozempic or Rybelsus;
- b. Trulicity;
- c. Liraglutide (generic Victoza);

*\* Prior authorization may be required*

*\*\* Intolerance due to common adverse effects of the GLP-1 receptor agonist class such as gastrointestinal symptoms is not considered acceptable*

7. Documentation supports member's participation in a physician-directed weight loss program that involves a reduced calorie diet, increased physical activity, and behavioral modification that meets both of the following (a and b):
  - a. Been actively enrolled in a physician-directed weight loss program for at least 6 months;
  - b. Will continue to be enrolled in a physician-directed weight loss program while concomitantly prescribed Wegovy;

8. Prescriber attestation that member is currently receiving standard of care management for concomitant related condition(s), including T2DM, dyslipidemia, and hypertension (*see Appendix E*);
9. Wegovy is not prescribed concurrently with Rezdifra<sup>™</sup>;
10. Wegovy is not prescribed concurrently with other semaglutide-containing products or any other GLP-1 receptor agonist(s);
11. Dose does not exceed the following:
  - a. Week 1 through 4: 0.25 mg once weekly;
  - b. Week 5 through 8: 0.5 mg once weekly;
  - c. Week 9 through 12: 1 mg once weekly;
  - d. Week 13 through 16: 1.7 mg once weekly;
  - e. Week 17 and onward: 2.4 mg once weekly.

**Approval duration: 6 months**

**D. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):**

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
  - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace/ICHRA) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
  - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace/ICHRA) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**II. Continued Therapy**

**A. Cardiovascular Event Prevention (must meet all):**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
  - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by one of the following (a or b):
  - a. If this is the first request renewal, member has lost  $\geq 5\%$  of baseline body weight;
  - b. If this is a second or subsequent renewal request, member has lost weight and/or maintained weight loss on therapy;
3. Documentation of member's current body weight in kg;

4. Prescriber attestation that member is currently receiving cardiovascular standard of care management (*see Appendix D*);
5. Wegovy is not prescribed concurrently with other semaglutide-containing products or any other GLP-1 receptor agonist(s);
6. Documentation that member is actively enrolled in a physician-directed program that involves a reduced calorie diet, increased physical activity, and behavioral modification adjunct to therapy;
7. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. For Wegovy injection requests, both of the following (i and ii):
    - i. After the initial dose escalation period (*see Section V*), member is able to tolerate a maintenance dose of  $\geq 1.7$  mg once weekly;
    - ii. Dose does not exceed 2.4 mg once weekly;
  - b. For Wegovy tablet requests, all of the following (i, ii, and iii):
    - i. After the initial dose escalation period (*see Section V*), member is able to tolerate a maintenance dose of 25 mg per day;
    - ii. Dose does not exceed 25 mg per day;
    - iii. Dose does not exceed 1 tablet per day.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

#### **B. Weight Management**

1. Use of Wegovy for the treatment of weight management is a benefit exclusion and will not be authorized.

**Approval duration: Not applicable**

#### **C. Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (must meet all):**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
  - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Request is for Wegovy injection;
3. After at least 12 months of therapy, member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by, including but not limited, improvement in any of the following parameters:
  - a. Improvement in fibrosis  $\geq 1$ -stage from baseline with no worsening of MASH (i.e., no worsening of hepatocellular ballooning, lobular inflammation, or steatosis);
  - b. Resolution of MASH with no worsening of fibrosis;
  - c. No increase in fibrosis stage and no worsening of MASH from baseline;
4. Prescriber attestation that member is currently receiving standard of care management for concomitant related condition(s), including T2DM, dyslipidemia, and hypertension (*see Appendix E*);
5. Documentation that member is actively enrolled in a physician-directed program that involves a reduced calorie diet, increased physical activity, and behavioral modification adjunct to therapy;

6. Wegovy is not prescribed concurrently with Rezdifra;
7. Wegovy is not prescribed concurrently with other semaglutide-containing products or any other GLP-1 receptor agonist(s);
8. Request meets both of the following (a and b):
  - a. After the initial dose escalation period (see *Section V*), member is able to tolerate a maintenance dose of  $\geq 1.7$  mg once weekly;
  - b. Dose does not exceed 2.4 mg once weekly.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

**D. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):**

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
  - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace/ICHRA) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
  - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace/ICHRA) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:**

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

ACE: angiotensin-converting enzyme

ARB: angiotensin receptor blocker

BMI: body mass index

CVD: cardiovascular disease

DPP-4: dipeptidyl peptidase 4

ELF: enhanced liver fibrosis

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

FIB-4: fibrosis-4

GLP-1: glucagon-like peptide-1

MASH: metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis

MASLD: metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease

MRE: magnetic resonance elastography

NASH: non-alcoholic steatohepatitis

NFS: NAFLD fibrosis score

PAD: peripheral arterial disease

PCSK9: proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9

SGLT2: sodium-glucose co-transporter

T2DM: type 2 diabetes mellitus

VCTE: vibration-controlled transient elastography

*Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives*

*This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.*

<b>Drug Name</b>	<b>Dosing Regimen</b>	<b>Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose</b>
Ozempic <sup>®</sup> (semaglutide)	<p>Injection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.25 mg to 2 mg SC once weekly, increased no more frequently than every 4 weeks</li> <li>For patients with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease, the dosage should be increased to the maintenance dose of 1 mg once weekly after at least 4 weeks on the 0.5 mg dosage</li> </ul> <p>Tablet: Initial dose: 1.5 mg PO QD. After 30 days on the 1.5 mg dose, increase to 4 mg PO QD. May increase to 9 mg PO QD if needed after at least 30 days on the 4 mg dose</p>	<p>Injection: 2 mg/week</p> <p>Tablet: 9 mg/day</p>
Rybelsus <sup>®</sup> (semaglutide)	Initial dose: 3 mg PO QD. After 30 days on the 3 mg dose, increase to 7 mg PO QD. May increase to 14 mg PO QD if needed after at least 30 days on the 7 mg dose	14 mg/day
Trulicity <sup>®</sup> (dulaglutide)	0.75 mg to 1.5 mg SC once weekly	4.5 mg/week
	May increase to 3 mg once weekly if needed after at least 4 weeks on 1.5 mg dose. May further increase to 4.5 mg once weekly if needed after at least 4 weeks on 3 mg dose.	
liraglutide (Victoza <sup>®</sup> )	Initial: 0.6 mg SC QD for 7 days Maintenance: 1.2 mg to 1.8 mg SC QD	1.8 mg/day

*Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name<sup>®</sup> (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name<sup>®</sup>) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.*

*\*\*Ozempic and Rybelsus tablets are not substitutable on a mg per mg basis. Use either formulation, but do not use both formulations at the same time. Patients may switch between formulations after 30 days of treatment (i.e., after the initiation phase). When switching between the formulations, initiate the other formulation the day after discontinuing the previous formulation.*

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

- Contraindication(s): personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) or with multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2), known hypersensitivity reaction to semaglutide or to any of the excipients in Wegovy
- Boxed warning(s): risk of thyroid C-cell tumors

*Appendix D: General Information – Cardiovascular Event Prevention*

- In the SELECT trial, symptomatic PAD was defined as intermittent claudication with ankle-brachial index (ABI) less than 0.85 (at rest), or peripheral arterial revascularization procedure, or amputation due to atherosclerotic disease.
- Cardiovascular standard of care management:
  - Dyslipidemia management may include a statin, ezetimibe, fibrate, omega-3 fatty acids, or proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9) inhibitors.
  - Hypertension management may include an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor, angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB), calcium channel blocker, or a thiazide diuretic.
  - Non-acute management of myocardial infarction may include beta-blockers, long-term dual antiplatelet therapy with aspirin and a P2Y<sub>12</sub> receptor blocker, statins (high-intensity), angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, aldosterone antagonist, and/or nitroglycerin.
  - Secondary prevention therapies for ischemic stroke may include antithrombotic therapy, antihypertensive therapy, and/or statins.
  - Secondary prevention therapies for PAD may include antiplatelet therapy, antithrombotic therapy, lipid-lowering therapy (e.g., statins), antihypertensive therapy, and/or glycemic control therapy (e.g., metformin, sulfonylurea, GLP-1 receptor agonists, sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 [SGLT2] inhibitors, etc.).

*Appendix E: General Information – MASH*

- In June 2023, the nomenclature describing NASH and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) was changed by an international liver disease societies consensus to MASH and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), respectively.
- MASH is defined by the presence of  $\geq 5\%$  hepatic steatosis with inflammation and hepatocyte injury (hepatocyte ballooning), with or without evidence of liver fibrosis.
- Standard of care management for concomitant related conditions:
  - T2DM management may include metformin, GLP-1 receptor agonist, SGLT2 inhibitor, sulfonylurea, dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP-4) inhibitors, pioglitazone, or insulin.
  - Dyslipidemia management may include a statin, ezetimibe, fibrate, omega-3 fatty acids, or proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9) inhibitors.
  - Hypertension management may include an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor, angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB), calcium channel blocker, or a thiazide diuretic.
- Examples of liver assessment scores combining serum-based and imaging-based tests to help identify MASH:
  - FAST score, as measured by FibroScan and serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST);
  - MAST score as measured by MRI-PDEF, MRE, and serum AST;
  - MEFIB score, as measured by FIB-4 and MRE.

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Semaglutide (Wegovy) injection	CV event prevention, MASH	<p>SC once weekly following dose escalation schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Week 1 through 4: 0.25 mg</li> <li>• Week 5 through 8: 0.5 mg</li> <li>• Week 9 through 12: 1 mg</li> <li>• Week 13 through 16: 1.7 mg</li> <li>• Week 17 and onward*: 1.7 mg or 2.4 mg</li> </ul> <p>If patients do not tolerate a dose during dose escalation, consider delaying dose escalation for 4 weeks.</p> <p>For MASH, the maintenance dosage is 2.4 mg once daily. If patients do not tolerate 2.4 mg once weekly, the dosage can be decreased to 1.7 mg once weekly. Consider reescalation to 2.4 mg once weekly.</p> <p>For CV event prevention, the maintenance dosage in adults is either 2.4 mg (recommended) or 1.7 mg once weekly.</p> <p><i>* 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, and 1 mg once-weekly dosages are initiation and escalation dosages and are not approved as maintenance dosages</i></p>	2.4 mg/week
Semaglutide (Wegovy) tablets	CV event prevention	<p>PO QD following dose escalation schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days 1 through 30: 1.5 mg</li> <li>• Days 31 through 60: 4 mg</li> <li>• Days 61 through 90: 9 mg</li> <li>• Days 91 and onward: 25 mg</li> </ul> <p>The recommended maintenance dosage is 25 mg daily. If patients do not tolerate the 25 mg once daily maintenance dosage, consider switching to Wegovy injection 1.7 mg once weekly.</p>	25 mg/day

**VI. Product Availability**

- Pre-filled, single-dose pens: 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg, Wegovy HD 7.2 mg
- Tablets: 1.5 mg, 4 mg, 9 mg, 25 mg

## VII. References

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*MASH*
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**Coding Implications**

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
C9399	Unclassified drugs or biologicals
J3490	Unclassified drugs

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created: adapted from previously approved policy CP.CPA.352; references reviewed and updated.	04.09.24	05.24
3Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	05.10.24	08.24
2Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01.15.25	05.25
Added step therapy bypass for IL HIM per IL HB 5395.	06.27.25	
RT4: Wegovy is now FDA approved for MASH – criteria updated per FDA labeling: revised biopsy lookback period from 6 months to 3 years per AASLD guidance; for imaging-based biomarker examples, replaced Fibroscan with VCTE as FibroScan is an example of VCTE; moved MAST, FAST, and MEFIB examples of non-invasive diagnostic tests to Appendix E; for members with concurrent T2DM, added trial of Rybelsus, Trulicity and Victoza; for diet and exercise criterion, clarified that member continues diet and exercise with concomitant Wegovy; for continued therapy, moved location of criterion regarding tolerance to maintenance dose of $\geq 1.7$ mg once weekly after at least 17 weeks of Wegovy therapy; revised language from “if this is a second or subsequent	09.09.25	11.25

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
renewal request” to “after at least 12 months of therapy” to determine positive response; references reviewed and updated.		
For cardiovascular event prevention, added Rybelsus as option for members with concurrent T2DM to reflect Rbyelsus’s new FDA indication for reduction of major adverse cardiovascular events in diabetic patients at high risk.	11.18.25	
RT4: added new formulation Wegovy tablets to policy. For CV event prevention, revised language for members with concurrent T2DM language from "failure" to "member has received optimal diabetic standard of care therapy as evidenced by a trial" to align with verbiage in MASH criterion.	01.13.26	02.26
2Q 2026 annual review: modified preferred liraglutide product to state ‘liraglutide (generic Victoza)’; references reviewed and updated. RT4: added new Wegovy HD injection 7.2 mg formulation for weight management. Added ICHRA line of business.	03.24.26	05.26

**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan

retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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**Note:**

**For Medicaid members**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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