

DRUG SHORTAGES UPDATE

OZEMPIC® (SEMAGLUTIDE) 0.68mg/mL (2mg pen) - NEW FORMAT

As you are aware, the world-wide demand of Ozempic® (semaglutide) pens has resulted in a limited supply of both the 2mg (1.34 mg/mL - DIN 02471477) and 4 mg (1.34 mg/mL - DIN 02471469) pens, by the manufacturer and wholesaler.

Effective January 4, 2024, an alternate 2mg pen format will be added with Exception Drug Status (EDS) criteria to the Saskatchewan Formulary:

DIN	Strength	Product Name	Dosage Form	Approved Quantity
02540258	0.68mg/mL	Ozempic® (Semaglutide) 2mg/3mL	pen	3 in 80 days

Pharmacists are encouraged to work closely with patients and their prescribers to discuss appropriate treatment options for ongoing therapy. This may include switching to another drug, many of which are benefits listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary or approved under Exception Drug Status (EDS), while other drugs may be non-benefits.

Additional information:

- Saskatchewan Formulary listings: <https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca>
- Saskatchewan Formulary Drug Shortages: <https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/DrugShortages>
- RxFiles: <https://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles>
- MedSask: <https://medsask.usask.ca/professional-practice/drug-shortages>
- Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-shortages/information-consumers/supply-notice/recommendations-ozempic-glp-1-agonists-shortage.html>

The Ministry of Health continues to work closely with Health Canada, manufacturers, wholesalers, and other provinces, to protect drug supply and reduce impacts to patients. As of the date of this bulletin, the Health Canada website <https://www.drugshortagescanada.ca> indicates that supply issues of the 2mg pen (DIN 002471477) and 4mg pen is estimated to be resolved by March 31, 2024. Please refer to this website for the most up-to-date information.

What criteria must be met for Ozempic® 0.68mg/mL (2mg pen) to be a Drug Plan benefit?

Ozempic® has Exception Drug Status (EDS) listing status, meaning certain medical criteria must be met: *For the treatment of type 2 diabetes in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea, when diet and exercise plus dual therapy with metformin and a sulfonylurea do not achieve adequate glycemic control.*

Can I dispense two Ozempic® 0.68mg/mL (2mg) pens to make up for a 4mg pen?

- Pharmacists are to dispense only one pen per prescription claim to preserve supply.
- The Drug Plan system has the following adjudication rule:
 - Approved quantity set to 3 in 80 days for all formats of Ozempic®
 - Maximum quantity of ONE for each claim.

Will a Quantity Days Supply Exception (QDSE) be approved for Ozempic®?

- QDSE will not be approved for an increased quantity of pens (two of the 4mg pens or two of the 2mg pens)
- QDSE will not be approved for more frequent prescription fills of Ozempic®.
- QDSE will not be approved for vacation supply for both 2mg and 4mg pens at this time.

Will there be reimbursement for Ozempic® claims that did not adjudicate through the Drug Plan system?

- Prescription claims that did not successfully adjudicate due to the approved quantity adjudication rule will not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Individuals will be responsible for the cost of the prescription.

Reminder

Many factors impact drug supply, such as lack of active ingredient, production issues/delays, and/or increased demand.

Who to Call:

If you or your patients have any questions, please call:

- Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch at 306-787-3317 (Regina) or 1-800-667-7581.

Information is also available on the following websites:

- The secure Drug Plan Web page for pharmacies (site where paylists are posted).