

# Ozempic® Drug Shortage

## Information for Patients

### Worldwide Shortage of Ozempic®. Supply Intermittent until March 31, 2024.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health is aware of the Ozempic® shortage. We recognize the importance of Ozempic® for patients living with type 2 diabetes.

The ministry is working with partners to support patients and health-care providers. These partners include drug manufacturers, Health Canada, the provincial Drug Advisory Committee of Saskatchewan, and health-care providers.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is Ozempic®?

Ozempic® contains semaglutide, a medication used to treat diabetes. It is a once-a-week injectable medication that is different from insulin. It is from a class of medication called a GLP1 receptor agonist.

#### Is Ozempic® a listed Saskatchewan Drug Plan benefit?

Ozempic® may be a benefit under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan for eligible patients with type 2 diabetes who meet the Exception Drug Status (EDS) criteria. Ozempic® is not officially approved by Health Canada for weight management.

#### Why is Ozempic® not available?

Novo Nordisk, the drug company that makes and sells Ozempic® in Canada, says the shortage is caused by overall global supply constraints and increased demand for the drug.

#### How long will the shortage last?

The manufacturer expects that the supply of Ozempic® will be intermittent until March 2024.

#### What strengths of Ozempic® are affected by the shortage?

- All pen strengths of Ozempic® are expected to be affected by this shortage.

Product Description	Health Canada Drug Identification Number (DIN)	Availability
Ozempic® 2mg pen (for 0.25mg or 0.5mg weekly dose)	02471477	Intermittent supply until March 31, 2024
Ozempic® 4mg pen (for 1mg weekly dose)	02471469	

## What can I do?

- Patients are encouraged to contact their pharmacy well in advance of running out of their current supply.
- Explore different treatment options that may be appropriate for you with your pharmacist and/or prescriber.

## Are other treatment options for type 2 diabetes covered by the Drug Plan? How much do they cost?

- The Saskatchewan Formulary lists many medications used to treat diabetes.
  - To be a Drug Plan benefit, some of these drugs require approval under Exception Drug Status (EDS) criteria.
  - Cost will vary based on the patient's usual medication deductible and/or co-payment.

## What can my pharmacist do?

- To preserve supply, Novo Nordisk is advising pharmacies to limit refill prescriptions to monthly renewals.
- Your pharmacist and health-care provider can explore different treatment options that may be appropriate for you.

## Contact Information

- **For questions about the Ozempic® shortage:**
  - Contact Novo Nordisk Customer Care at 1-800-465-4334 (toll free)
- **For questions about treatment with Ozempic® and other options to treat diabetes:**
  - Talk to your pharmacist, doctor, nurse practitioner, or diabetes educator.
- **If you do not have a doctor, nurse practitioner, or diabetes educator:**
  - Contact medSask for clinical support:
    - Visit [medsask.usask.ca/](https://medsask.usask.ca/)
    - Email [med.sask@usask.ca](mailto:med.sask@usask.ca)
    - Call 1-800-665-3784 (306-966-6378 in Saskatoon)
  - Contact the Medication Assessment Centre for a free medication review:
    - Visit [pharmacy-nutrition.usask.ca/mac](https://pharmacy-nutrition.usask.ca/mac)
    - Email [medicationassessmentcentre@usask.ca](mailto:medicationassessmentcentre@usask.ca)
    - Call 306-966-6469
  - Speak to your pharmacist
  - Find a walk-in clinic near you
- **For questions about Drug Plan coverage, contact:**
  - The Saskatchewan Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch  
3475 Albert St REGINA, Canada S4S 6X6  
Toll free 1-800-667-7581 or 306-787-3317 in Regina
- **For questions about drug coverage from another insurance provider, contact:**
  - your insurer provider or group benefits administrator

Information is also available on the Supply and Use of Ozempic® from Health Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-shortages/information-consumers/supply-notice/ozempic.html>