# **Formulary Changes Starting July 1st, 2025, for GLP-1 Weight Loss Medications**

[Impacted Members](#_Toc206588301)

[Key Changes](#_Toc206588302)

[Communication to Members](#_Toc206588303)

[Action Steps for Members](#_Toc206588304)

[Agent Action](#_Toc206588305)

[Related Documents](#_Toc206588306)

**Description:** Information regarding the upcoming formulary change for GLP-1 preferred status, specifically the transition from Zepbound to Wegovy. It is important to note that these changes will only impact select formularies (Caremark Standard/Choice formularies) and will not affect custom formularies. Agents should review this information during calls regarding the formulary change to assist members effectively.

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| Impacted Members |

 The Formulary Change took place on 07/01/2025, rely on your tools to determine coverage for members:

1. Review the CIF.
2. Run a test claim before providing coverage details to ensure accurate information is communicated to members regarding formulary changes. Refer to [Compass - Test Claims (050041)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=60c20ea0-1d07-46e3-809a-b54734b80fbe), as needed.

Refer to and Utilize [Compass - Viewing Communications (056371)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=c0238ae3-ea9b-4da2-b9c9-90c8d4ad62a8) to review member letters and educate accordingly.

**Aetna Commercial Members only:** To verify if this formulary change applies, Aetna CCRs must verify the member's formulary in GPS and then proceed to Aetna.com and locate the Drug guide changes for July 1 (PDF) on that formulary's page. Refer to [Aetna - GPS - Identifying Which Formulary Guide to Use for Commercial Members (068696)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=75c5286e-dbf7-4d23-9888-905d455765f3) and [Aetna - Medication Search Tool and Finding a Formulary (076129)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=fdd78993-fbca-42e9-b51b-a464c3c7e2cf) for additional changes as needed.

**For Questions and Answers regarding Standard Formulary Changes, refer to the following work instructions:**

**Compass Users:** [Compass - Standard Formulary Changes (065563)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=eea2c64c-d61c-4cd5-a2ab-444fcde92964)

**PeopleSafe Users:** [Standard Formulary Changes (114719)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=0afb51c4-054b-4d6e-b989-5aeefdb37145)

[Top of the Document](#_top)

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| Key Changes |

This is a **significant** formulary change for our members currently using Zepbound. Agents must be well-informed to provide accurate and timely assistance. Ensure that all member inquiries are handled with care and clarity.

**Zepbound Removal:**

* **Effective Date:** July 1, 2025, Zepbound will be removed from the select formularies (Caremark Standard/Choice formularies), but not from custom formularies.
* **Prior Authorization Termination:** June 30, 2025, any existing prior authorization (PA) or override for Zepbound will be terminated.

**Wegovy Addition:**

* + **Replacement:** July 1, 2025, Wegovy will replace Zepbound on the select formularies (Caremark Standard/Choice formularies), but not from custom formularies.
  + **New Prior Authorization (PA):** A new prior authorization for Wegovy will be proactively added for members currently using Zepbound on 06/02/2025, it will be backdated and be effective on 06/01/2025.
* The new PA will be shown as an override instead of a prior authorization and may be listed under the generic name Semaglutide.
  + **Validity:** The Wegovy Prior Authorization will be valid through the expiration date of the original Zepbound Prior Authorization.

**Example:** Member has a Zepbound Prior Authorization valid 03/01/2025-03/01/2026, it will be termed on 06/30/2025. A new Wegovy Prior Authorization will automatically be entered for 06/01/2025-03/01/2026.

** Wegovy PA Lag File:**

* All new Zepbound fillers with first fills from May 1- June 24,2025, will be getting Wegovy PA overrides by July 11, 2025. If the members escalate in the meantime, they can go through the normal PA process.
* New Zepbound fills from June 25th- June 30, 2025, were **NOT** included in the catch-up process. These members will need to obtain a new PA for Wegovy from their MD.

[Top of the Document](#_top)

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| Communication to Members |

* **Notification Letters:** Letters informing impacted members about the formulary change will be sent starting Thursday, May 1, 2025.
* **Letter Access:** Letters will be loaded into Compass for reference. Refer to [Compass - Viewing Communications (056371)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=c0238ae3-ea9b-4da2-b9c9-90c8d4ad62a8) for steps on viewing communications.

[Top of the Document](#_top)

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| Action Steps for Members |

* **Current Medication:** Members have the option to continue filling Zepbound prescriptions through 06/30/2025. However, the Wegovy Prior Authorization will be in place as of 06/02/2025. Member will have the option to start filling Wegovy as of 06/02/2025.
* **New Prescription:** Members who need to obtain a new prescription for Wegovy can do so through Caremark Mail Order Pharmacy, refer to [Medications not Available via Home Delivery (026885)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=c46dd06b-3aa7-427e-a8b2-004a4d094c16) for specific strengths of Wegovy that are unavailable via Mail Order. Members always have the option of having the prescription sent to their in-network pharmacy. (CVS-owned retail pharmacies will proactively request a New Rx from the prescriber, non-CVS pharmacies may not proactively make the request.) Perform a test claim to determine availability of specific strengths at mail service. Refer to [Compass – Test Claims (050041)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=60c20ea0-1d07-46e3-809a-b54734b80fbe) as needed.

[Top of the Document](#_top)

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| Agent Action |

1. Ask the member if they received any communication about the changes.
2. Check the system for any letters sent regarding these formulary changes ([Compass - Viewing Communications (056371)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=c0238ae3-ea9b-4da2-b9c9-90c8d4ad62a8).
3. Review the CIF for relevant information regarding custom formularies.
4. Be prepared to answer questions regarding the transition and assist members in understanding the new process.
5. Advise members on how they can obtain their new prescription.
6. Ensure members understand the timeline and actions they need to take.

**Prior Authorization Process:** Ensure that the new Wegovy Prior Authorization is in place before the member transitions from Zepbound.

* + As of 06/02/2025 a Test Claim can be processed, to ensure Wegovy will pay for the member.

**Standard talking points in addressing member concerns regarding formulary changes:**

* **Weight Loss Treatment Updates:** As part of our commitment to improving access to effective obesity treatments, we are leveraging formulary design to help lower the cost of weight loss medications. This will enable more plan sponsors to offer obesity treatment as a covered benefit.
* **Wegovy as Preferred Treatment:** Effective July 1, 2025, Wegovy will be designated as the preferred medication for obesity treatment. Wegovy has been proven effective in treating obesity and has additional health benefits, including reducing cardiovascular risks such as heart attack, stroke, and heart-related deaths in patients with established heart disease.
* **Exceptions for Zepbound:** If your physician or provider determines that Zepbound is the necessary treatment for your condition, they can work with our clinical teams to explore the possibility of making an exception. This ensures that members receive the most appropriate care based on their individual health needs. Members will be able to submit an exception for Zepbound starting 07/01/2025. Refer to [Compass - Prior Authorization, Exceptions, Appeals Guide (063978)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=657ddfe3-27d1-4a21-8f51-8cbd3961001c).
* **Access to Medications:** CVS Caremark works diligently to ensure access to medications that are both clinically appropriate and cost-effective for our members and clients.
* **Clinical Expertise:** We have a panel of independent clinical experts, including physicians and pharmacists, who assist us in determining which drugs to cover. This ensures that the options we provide are clinically appropriate and cost-effective for patients.
* **Market Monitoring:** Our team is constantly monitoring the marketplace to deliver the best clinical and cost value possible. We encourage your doctor to review and consider all other formulary options available.
* **Choice and Final Decision:** You have the choice to continue with your current medication, and your doctor always has the final say on what medication is best for your condition. However, if you decide to continue taking your current medication, please be aware that you should expect to pay the full cost. Refer to [Member Cannot Afford Medication (Alternatives and Financial Assistance) (026963)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=62aa67ac-8298-4fa1-b1ba-fda383d15b4c).
* **Prior Authorization and Appeals:** Depending on your plan, your doctor may be able to request a prior authorization or an appeal for coverage. Refer to [Compass - Prior Authorization, Exceptions, Appeals Guide (063978)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=657ddfe3-27d1-4a21-8f51-8cbd3961001c).

[Top of the Document](#_top)

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| Related Documents |

[Formulary and URL Address Locations (051617)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/" \l "!/view?docid=b8695466-1ae2-4ef2-a88f-d7e5795efd1f)

[Standard Formulary Changes (114719)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/#!/view?docid=0afb51c4-054b-4d6e-b989-5aeefdb37145)

[Aetna - Commercial Changes to Drug Lists / Formulary Updates FAQs (010891)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/" \l "!/view?docid=12a95cea-1a70-41c8-83bf-b424b7578ab8" \t "_blank)

**Parent Documents:**[CALL-0011 Authenticating Caller](https://policy.corp.cvscaremark.com/pnp/faces/DocRenderer?documentId=CALL-0011), [CALL 0049 Customer Care Internal and External Call Handling](https://policy.corp.cvscaremark.com/pnp/faces/DocRenderer?documentId=CALL-0049)

[Top of the Document](#_top)

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