**MED D – Coverage for Wegovy and Anti-Obesity Medications**

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**Description:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has clarified guidance on the coverage for anti-obesity medications (AOMs), otherwise known as weight loss drugs.

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| Overview |

**Previously:** CMS noted that certain drugs were excluded from the definition of a covered Part D drug, including “agents when used for anorexia, weight loss, and weight gain.” Therefore, all drugs when used for weight loss have been excluded from basic Part D coverage since the beginning of the program in 2006.

**Now:** CMS has clarified that if anti-obesity medication has additional FDA-approved uses that meet the definition of Part D coverage, they may be eligible for payment under Part D for that specific use.

**Wegovy** is a common anti-obesity medication that has previously been excluded from coverage. Wegovy and the other drugs approved by the FDA for weight loss continue to be excluded from coverage when prescribed solely for weight loss. However, the FDA has given Wegovy additional approval for reduction in the risk of major cardiovascular events for patients with existing heart disease and who meet the definition of obese/overweight. This means that plans can now review case by case on if the drug might be covered under Part D under per this unique set of medical criteria.

CCRs should follow the normal process for Coverage Determination when receiving calls on Wegovy or other anti-obesity medications.

 Part D coverage is still not available for anti-obesity medications when used exclusively for chronic weight management.

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| FAQs |

Refer to the following:

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| **#** | **Question** | **Answer** |
|  | I feel this would help me improve my current heart condition or help me lose weight. What can I do in order to have this covered by my plan? | Follow the normal process for Coverage Determination and explain that the clinicians will review the patient and provider information to determine if they could qualify for coverage under Part D.  Do not make promises or discuss what might be possible, as this is a case-by-case situation. |
|  | Is there a more cost-effective version of Wegovy (Ex. Semaglutide) or something that I can get instead? | There are no commercially available generics for Wegovy on the market. Please consult with your physician for any alternatives. |
|  | What qualifies as a heart condition for this to be covered? | Please consult with your physician as to your specific condition in order to determine if Wegovy might be eligible for coverage based on your specific diagnosis. The doctor can submit a request on your behalf for consideration. |

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