

Provider Bulletin

Molina Healthcare of Washington, Inc.

August 23, 2024

Off-Label Use of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists

As part of Molina's commitment to ensuring the highest standard of patient care, we are reaching out to address the prescribing of GLP-1 receptor agonists.

Our recent review of prescription data has revealed a growing trend amongst our providers of GLP-1 receptor agonists, such as Victoza, Bydureon, and Byetta being prescribed for off-label indications. As a reminder these medications are only FDA approved for members with a diagnosis of Type 2 Diabetes and drugs used for weight loss are not a Medicaid covered benefit. In members without a diagnosis of Type 2 Diabetes, this is considered off-label prescribing.

The off-label prescribing of GLP-1s poses several issues, including:

- **Safety and Efficacy:** The safety and efficacy of GLP-1 receptor agonists have not been established for indications outside of FDA-approved labeling.
- **Adverse Side Effects:** Pancreatitis, gastroparesis, and bowel obstruction
- **Drug Shortages:** Off-label prescribing has led to challenges in the ability of pharmacies to maintain adequate supply of these medications for patients with Type 2 Diabetes.

We strongly encourage that you to adhere to the FDA-approved indications when prescribing GLP-1 receptor agonists.

Thank you for your continued partnership with Molina Healthcare.

Sincerely,

Jenna Strully, MD

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