BlueCross BlueShield
Federal Employee Program
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
750 9th St NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20001
1-800-624-5060
Fax 1-877-378-4727

5.30.086

Section:	Prescription Drugs	**Effective Date:**	July 1, 2026
Subsection:	Endocrine and Metabolic Agents	**Original Policy Date:**	July 28, 2023
Subject:	Antidiabetic GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 Agonists	**Page:**	1 of 7

Last Review Date: June 11, 2026

Antidiabetic GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 Agonists

Description

Adlyxin injection (lixisenatide)
Byetta injection, Bydureon injection, Bydureon BCise injection (exenatide)
Mounjaro (tirzepatide)
Ozempic injection, Ozempic tablets, Rybelsus tablets (semaglutide)
Trulicity injection (dulaglutide)
Victoza injection (liraglutide)

Background
Adlyxin, Byetta, Bydureon, Bydureon BCise, Ozempic, Rybelsus, Trulicity, and Victoza are glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor (GLP-1) agonists. Mounjaro is a glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) and GLP-1 receptor agonist. These medications are designed to mimic the action of incretin hormones by stimulating insulin release after glucose is ingested, making them an additional avenue for treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus, which has extensive guideline recommendations for treatment and diagnosis. Additionally, GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 receptor agonists can decrease blood glucose through increasing feelings of satiety by delaying gastric emptying, stimulating the proliferation of pancreatic beta-cells, and inhibiting the production of glucagon (1-2).

Regulatory Status
FDA-approved indications: Bydureon, Bydureon BCise, Trulicity, and Victoza are indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in patients 10 years and older with type 2 diabetes mellitus and to reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in adults

with type 2 diabetes mellitus and established cardiovascular disease, or multiple cardiovascular risk factors (5-7, 11-12).

Mounjaro is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in patients 10 years and older with type 2 diabetes mellitus (7).

Adlyxin, Byetta, Ozempic injection, Ozempic tablets, and Rybelsus are indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus (3-4, 8-10).

Ozempic injection, Ozempic tablets, and Rybelsus are also indicated to reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, or non-fatal stroke) in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus who are at high risk for these events (8-10).

Ozempic injections are also indicated to reduce the risk of sustained eGFR decline, end-stage kidney disease and cardiovascular death in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus and chronic kidney disease (8).

Bydureon, Bydureon BCise, Mounjaro, Ozempic, Rybelsus, Trulicity, and Victoza have a boxed warning indicating that they have been shown to cause thyroid C-cell tumors in rats. It is unknown whether the GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 agonists cause thyroid C-cell tumors, including medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) in humans. The use of GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 agonists is contraindicated in patients with a personal or family history of MTC, or in patients with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2). Patients should be counseled on the potential risk of MTC and the symptoms of thyroid tumors (3-12).

The use of GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 agonists has been associated with acute pancreatitis, acute kidney injury, acute gallbladder disease, severe gastrointestinal adverse reactions, diabetic retinopathy complications in patients with a history of diabetic retinopathy, pulmonary aspiration during general anesthesia or deep sedation, and hypoglycemia. Patients should be monitored for these outcomes and the medication discontinued as medically indicated. Concomitant administration of a GLP-1 agonist with insulin or an insulin secretagogue may increase the risk of hypoglycemia and the dose of either insulin or insulin secretagogue may need to be reduced (3-12).

The safety and effectiveness of Bydureon, Bydureon BCise, Mounjaro, Trulicity, and Victoza in pediatric patients less than 10 years of age have not been established (5-7, 11-12).

The safety and effectiveness of Adlyxin, Byetta, Ozempic, and Rybelsus in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (3-4, 8-10).

Related policies
Insulin GLP-1 Combinations, Metformin, SGLT2 Inhibitors, SGLT2 Step, Trijardy XR

Policy

This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.

Adlyxin, Byetta, Bydureon, Bydureon BCise, Mounjaro, Ozempic, Rybelsus, Trulicity, and Victoza may be considered **medically necessary** if the conditions indicated below are met.

Adlyxin, Byetta, Bydureon, Bydureon BCise, Mounjaro, Ozempic, Rybelsus, Trulicity, and Victoza may be considered **investigational** for all other indications.

Prior-Approval Requirements

Diagnosis

Patient must have the following:

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

AND ALL of the following:

1. Patient must have **ONE** of the following:
    a. HbA1c ≥ 6.5%
    b. History of fasting plasma glucose (FPG) ≥ 126 mg/dL
    c. History of a 2-hour glucose of ≥ 200 mg/dL during oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT)
    d. Patient has a history of symptoms of hyperglycemia (polyuria, polydipsia, polyphagia), or hyperglycemic crisis and a random plasma glucose ≥ 200 mg/dL
2. **NO** dual therapy with other glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists (see Appendix 1)

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

Diagnosis

Patient must have the following:

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

AND ALL of the following:

1. Glycemic control has improved or stabilized while on therapy
2. **NO** dual therapy with other glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists (see Appendix 1)

Policy Guidelines

Pre - PA Allowance

None

Prior - Approval Limits

Quantity

Medication	Quantity Limit
Mounjaro	12 units per 84 days **OR**
Ozempic injection	3 units per 84 days **OR**
Ozempic tablets	90 tablets per 90 days **OR**
Rybelsus	90 tablets per 90 days **OR**
Trulicity	12 units per 84 days **OR**
Victoza	9 units per 90 days

Medication **with approved formulary exception only**	Quantity Limit
Adlyxin	6 units per 84 days **OR**
Bydureon/Bydureon BCise	12 units per 84 days **OR**
Byetta	3 units per 90 days **OR**

Duration 12 months

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Same as above

Rationale

Summary

Adlyxin, Byetta, Bydureon, Bydureon BCise, Ozempic, Rybelsus, Trulicity, and Victoza are glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor (GLP-1) agonists. Mounjaro is a glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) and GLP-1 receptor agonist. The medications are designed to mimic the action of incretin hormones by stimulating insulin release after glucose is ingested, making them an additional avenue for treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus. They should not be used to treat type 1 diabetes. GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 agonists have a boxed warning for causing thyroid c-cell tumors in rats. While unclear if this is applicable to humans, use of GLP-1s in patients who have a personal or family history of thyroid tumors is contraindicated (1-12).

Prior approval is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Antidiabetic GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 agonists while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

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3. Adlyxin [package insert]. Bridgewater, NJ: Sanofi-Aventis US LLC; March 2026.
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5. Bydureon [package insert]. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; May 2025.
6. Bydureon BCise [package insert]. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; May 2025.
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8. Ozempic injection [package insert]. Bagsvaerd, Denmark: Novo Nordisk A/S; January 2025.
9. Ozempic tablets [package insert]. Bagsvaerd, Denmark: Novo Nordisk A/S; January 2026.
10. Rybelsus [package insert]. Bagsvaerd, Denmark: Novo Nordisk A/S; January 2026.
11. Trulicity [package insert]. Indianopolis, IN: Eli Lilly and Company; November 2024.

12. Victoza [package insert]. Bagsvaerd, Denmark: Novo Nordisk A/S; November 2024.

Policy History

Date	Action
July 2023	Addition to PA
September 2023	Annual review
October 2023	Combined with 5.30.083 Mounjaro policy. Renamed policy Antidiabetic GLP-1 GIP Agonists
December 2023	Annual review
February 2024	Updated step-out statement to clarify that the 30-day fill must have elapsed/been utilized
March 2024	Annual review
April 2024	Per FEP, added quantity limits
June 2024	Annual review
July 2024	Per FEP, added no dual therapy with other GLP-1 agonists to criteria
August 2024	Addition of generic liraglutide with formulary exception
September 2024	Annual Review. Per FEP, removed step out language, added type 2 DM diagnosis requirement to initiation and improvement in condition to continuation
December 2024	Annual review. Per FEP, removed requirement for a formulary exception for liraglutide
June 2025	Annual editorial review and reference update
April 2026	Added Ozempic tablets to policy, removed limitations of use section and updated warnings and precautions
June 2026	Annual review

Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on June 11, 2026 and is effective on July 1, 2026.

Appendix 1 - List of GLP-1 Agonist Medications

Generic Name	Brand Name
dulaglutide	Trulicity
exenatide	Byetta
exenatide	Bydureon, Bydureon BCise
liraglutide	Saxenda
liraglutide	Victoza
liraglutide and insulin degludec	Xultophy
lixisenatide	Adlyxin
lixisenatide and insulin glargine	Soliqua
semaglutide	Ozempic
semaglutide	Rybelsus
semaglutide	Wegovy
tirzepatide	Mounjaro
tirzepatide	Zepbound