

TVFHT Drug Info Blast: Ozempic 1mg Shortage September 2023



Ozempic 1mg injection pens are on backorder until at least mid-October. The 0.25 mg/0.5 mg injection pens continue to be available but are on allocation (limited supply to pharmacies).

For patients on Ozempic 1mg subcut q weekly

- ✓ Consider reducing the dose to 0.5mg subcut q weekly (provide a prescription)
- ✓ 1mg and 0.5mg are equally effective at reducing major cardiovascular events (MACE)
- ✓ The difference between 1mg vs 0.5mg on average: ↓ A1C 0.2-0.3%, weight loss ~ 3lbs
- ✗ Using a 0.5mg subcut dose x2 increases the cost to ~\$500/month (not all drug plans will cover this option)

Consider alternative GLP-1 agonists (NOT covered by ODB, cost ~\$250/month):

Trulicity (dulaglutide subcut weekly) or Victoza (liraglutide subcut daily)

- ✓ Both dulaglutide and liraglutide have similar reduction of MACE as Ozempic
- ✓ A1C reduction is similar between the agents, average weight loss is slightly less
- Switching from Ozempic: administer first dose of the new GLP-1 agonist when the next dose of Ozempic is due (7 days after last dose), for dose equivalence – click [here](#)

SGLT2i Options (orally administered, covered by ODB):

- ✓ Sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibitors (SGLT2i) (canagliflozin, dapagliflozin, empagliflozin) are also known to provide cardiorenal benefits in high-risk populations (reduction of MACE, progression of nephropathy, heart failure hospitalizations), along with reducing A1C

What about Rybelsus (oral semaglutide, NOT covered by ODB)?

- Effect on CV risk reduction is neutral (unlike injectable GLP-1s which have proven CV benefit); comparable A1C lowering, but less expected weight loss
- ✗ Complicated administration instructions make it difficult to tolerate [*Take on an empty stomach 30-60mins before first meal of the day with ≤120mls (1/2 cup) of water. If taken with larger volume of water it may reduce drug absorption. Do not administer with other medications*]
- Switching from Ozempic 1 mg dose: switch to 14mg Rybelsus starting 7 days after last Ozempic 1mg dose

Notes on off-label use for weight loss:

- ✓ For the time being, consider on-label treatments such as Saxenda® (liraglutide) and Contrave® (naltrexone/bupropion) and other interventions as appropriate.
- ✓ Defer new starts of Ozempic® for weight loss until the supply issue has resolved.
- ✓ Reassess treatment – if patient has reached target weight, consider reducing the dose.

TVFHT Pharmacists are offering academic detailing visits on pharmacotherapy for type 2 diabetes. Please reach out to us if you are interested in learning more through these Mainpro accredited visits.