

PROVIDER Update



CONTRACTUAL | APRIL 23, 2025 | UPDATE 25-385m | 3 PAGES

Medication Trend Updates and Drug Benefit Changes – 2nd Quarter 2025

Review drug list changes and medication safety issues

Stay up to date with information about:

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves first generic referencing Victoza (liraglutide injection).
- Changes to the Medi-Cal drug benefits for the second quarter of 2025.

FDA approves first generic referencing Victoza (liraglutide injection)

On December 23, 2024, the FDA approved the first generic referencing Victoza (liraglutide injection) 18 milligram/3 milliliter. Liraglutide injection is a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults and pediatric patients 10 years of age and older with type 2 diabetes (T2D).

There has been a shortage of GLP-1 medications since 2023 due to high demand driven by the popularity of drugs like Ozempic®, which is approved to treat type 2 diabetes but is used off-label as a weight loss medication. The FDA prioritizes assessment of generic drug applications for drugs in shortage to help improve patient access to these medications.

According to the Office of Generic Drugs in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, generic drugs provide additional treatment options which are generally more affordable for patients. This approval for liraglutide injection emphasizes the FDA's continued commitment to advancing patient access to safe, effective and high-quality generic drug products.

Liraglutide mimics GLP-1, a naturally occurring hormone in the pancreas that regulates blood sugar levels by releasing insulin. The most common side effects of liraglutide injection include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting and decreased appetite. Prescribing information also includes a warning for the potential formation of thyroid C-cell tumors including medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC). For this reason, patients with a personal or family history of MTC and patients with an endocrine system condition called multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome type 2 should not use liraglutide.

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups

PROVIDER SERVICES

CHPIV Medi-Cal
(including ECM and CS providers) –
833-236-4141

PROVIDER PORTAL

provider.healthnetcalifornia.com

For more information on *FDA Approves First Generic of Once-Daily GLP-1 Injection to Lower Blood Sugar in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes*, refer to <https://bit.ly/FDAApprovesFirstGenericGLP>.

Changes to Medi-Cal drug benefits

The Pharmacy Advisory Committee includes practicing physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals. Each quarter, the Pharmacy Advisory Committee reviews Medi-Cal drug benefits to determine changes. A table listing some recent changes is available on page 3. The list contains brand-name prescription medications, status, other medication choices, and comments for the second quarter of 2025.

A complete list of formularies for all products, including the Medi-Cal Drug Lists, is available on the Pharmacy Information for Providers page on the provider website at <https://bit.ly/PharmacyInformationforProviders>.

For medical drug benefits, refer to the *Outpatient Pharmaceuticals (Submitted Under Medi-Cal Benefit)* section of the Medi-Cal Fee-for Service Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley Prior Authorization List at <https://bit.ly/HealthNetPriorAuthorizations>.

Pharmacy help lines

For more information regarding changes to the Medi-Cal medical benefit drugs, contact the proper pharmacy phone number listed.

Product	Phone number	Fax number
Pharmacy Benefit (Medi-Cal Rx)	800-977-2273	800-869-4325
Medical Benefit Drugs (Medi-Cal)	800-675-6110	833-953-3436

Changes to the Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley Medi-Cal drug benefits

Medication	Status	Formulary alternative(s)	Comments
Oral preparation			
Aqneursa™ (levacetylleucine) suspension	Carved out to state		Treatment of neurological manifestations of Niemann-Pick (NPC) disease type C in adults and pediatric patients weighing ≥ 15 kg.
Miplyffa™ (arimoclomol) capsule	Carved out to state		Use in combination with miglustat for the treatment of neurological manifestations of NPC in adult and pediatric patients 2 years of age and older.
Revuforj® (revumenib) tablet	Carved out to state		Treatment of relapsed or refractory acute leukemia with a lysine methyltransferase 2A gene (KMT2A) translocation in adult and pediatric patients 1 year and older.
Injectable preparation			
Liraglutide (by Teva) solution pen injector	Carved out to state		Generic Victoza injection is now available.
Victoza (liraglutide) prefilled, single-patient-use pen	Carved out to state		
Ziihera® (zanidatamab-hrii) single-dose vial	Medical benefit ¹		Treatment of adults with previously treated, unresectable or metastatic HER2-positive (immunohistochemistry 3+) biliary tract cancer, as detected by an FDA approved test.

Note: The information above is subject to change. Please refer the Prior Authorization List at <https://bit.ly/HealthNetPriorAuthorizations> for the most up-to-date information.

¹ Prior authorization (PA) is required to verify that the member is eligible and satisfies clinical protocols to ensure appropriate use of the medication.