



Medications for Weight Loss Marketed in Canada (May 2024)

Please see the [PharmaCare Special Authority website](#) for complete details on PharmaCare coverage in British Columbia.

Generic/brand name, available strengths, dosage forms, ¹ cost, ² coverage ³	Health Canada chronic weight management indications*, contraindications, dosage considerations indication, initial dosing, titration, dose response, maximum dose, administration ¹	
GLUCAGON-LIKE PEPTIDE RECEPTOR AGONISTS (GLP1a)		
semaglutide WEGOVY 0.25, 0.5, 1, 1.7, 2.4 mg/dose multidose prefilled pens single dose prefilled pen (<i>not available in BC</i>) PharmaCare: non benefit Annual cost: \$5450	Indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ages ≥ 18 years: BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² or ≥ 27 kg/m² and ≥ 1 weight-related comorbidity ages 12 – 17 years: body weight > 60 kg and BMI ≥ 95th percentile for age and sex and inadequate response to reduced calorie diet and physical activity alone
	Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal or family history of medullary thyroid cancer, Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2, pregnancy, breastfeeding
	Initial dosing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.25 mg subcutaneously once weekly for 4 weeks
	Dose response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.4 mg vs. 1 mg: 3% additional weight loss; 2.4 mg vs. 1.7 mg: 4% additional weight loss
	Dose titration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> every 4 weeks to doses of 0.5, 1, 1.7 mg until maintenance dose of 2.4 mg/week reached
	Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> subcutaneous injection into abdomen, thigh or upper arm (rotate sites)
liraglutide SAXENDA 0.6, 1.2, 1.8, 2.4, 3 mg/dose multidose prefilled pens PharmaCare: non benefit Approx. annual cost: \$5500	Indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ages ≥ 18 years: BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² or ≥ 27 kg/m² with ≥ 1 weight-related comorbidity and failed previous weight management intervention ages 12 – 17 years: body weight > 60 kg and BMI corresponding to ≥ 30 kg/m² for adults and inadequate response to reduced calorie diet and physical activity alone
	Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal or family history of medullary thyroid cancer, Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2, pregnancy, breastfeeding
	Initial dosing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.6 mg subcutaneously once daily for 1 week
	Dose response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 mg vs. 1.8 mg: 1% additional weight loss
	Dose titration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> every week to doses of 1.2, 1.8, 2.4 mg until maintenance dose of 3 mg/day reached
	Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> subcutaneous injection into abdomen, thigh or upper arm (rotate sites)
OPIOID ANTAGONIST/ANTIDEPRESSANT COMBINATIONS		
naltrexone/bupropion CONTRAVE 8/90 mg extended-release tablets PharmaCare: non benefit Approx. annual cost: \$3700	Indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ages ≥ 18 years: BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² or ≥ 27 kg/m² with ≥ 1 weight-related comorbidity
	Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> opioid use (agonist or partial agonist, including tramadol), opioid withdrawal, uncontrolled hypertension, seizure disorder, bulimia, anorexia nervosa, concomitant MAOIs, thioridazine, or other bupropion containing products (Wellbutrin®, Zyban®), severe hepatic impairment, end-stage renal failure, pregnancy, abrupt discontinuation of alcohol, benzodiazepines or other sedatives and antiepileptic drugs
	Initial dosing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8/90 mg tablet orally once daily for 1 week ↓ dose: renal/hepatic impairment, concomitant CYP2B6 inhibitors (e.g., ticlopidine, clopidogrel)
	Dose response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relevant dose response information is absent
	Dose titration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> every week by 8/90 mg until maintenance dose of 16/180 mg twice daily reached
	Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> take with food (do not take with high fat meal); do not cut, crush or chew
GASTROINTESTINAL LIPASE INHIBITOR		
orlistat XENICAL 120 mg capsules PharmaCare: non benefit Approx. annual cost: \$2200	Indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ages ≥ 12 years: BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² or ≥ 27 kg/m² and other risk factors
	Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> chronic malabsorption syndrome, cholestasis, pregnancy, breastfeeding
	Initial dosing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 mg capsule orally daily⁴
	Dose response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> doses above 120 mg three times daily have not been shown to provide additional benefit
	Dose titration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 120 mg three times daily with each meal that contains fat
	Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> take during or up to 1 hour after meals; omit if no meal or no fat in meal
<p>*Chronic weight management indications: as an adjunct to a reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity (semaglutide, liraglutide, naltrexone/bupropion) or as an adjunct to a mildly hypocaloric diet (orlistat); BMI Body Mass Index; ¹Health Canada Drug Product Database; ²Approximate cost: maintenance dose without mark-up or professional fee calculated from McKesson Canada May 27, 2024; ³BC PharmaCare Formulary; ⁴RxFiles July 2023</p>		