

MEMORANDUM

TO: PD&T (Provincial Drugs and Therapeutics) Distribution List: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists
Pharmacare Memo Distribution List, Community Pharmacies, Pharmacists Association

FROM: Health PEI Diabetes Program, Health PEI Pharmacy Services (Pharmacare)

DATE: November 3, 2023

SUBJECT: Ozempic® Shortage

Ozempic® pens continue to be in short supply due to overall global supply constraints and increased demand. As a result, the continued access to Ozempic® for patients with type 2 diabetes is an ongoing struggle.

To support continued access for those who require Ozempic® the most:

Provincial Diabetes Program Recommends:

- Pharmacists are strongly encouraged to limit Ozempic® prescriptions to a 30-day supply for all patients.
- Consideration should be given to the urgency of initiating Ozempic® therapy for weight management and where appropriate, Ozempic® prescribing should be limited to those patients with type 2 diabetes who require access for glycemic control.
- For patients who do not rely on coverage under the PEI Pharmacare Diabetes Drug Program, an alternate GLP1-RA agent may be considered for glycemic management.
- Health care professionals may wish to consider other appropriate alternatives identified in the Diabetes Canada Clinical Practice Guidelines, or CPhA/MedSask guidance documents <https://www.pharmacists.ca/advocacy/issues/drug-shortages/ozempic-supply>

Health PEI Pharmacare Mitigation Strategies:

- Continue to allow only 30-day access to Ozempic® under the Diabetes Drug Program.
- **Effective immediately and until supply interruptions cease, Ozempic® will not be eligible under the Pharmacare Travel Supply Policy.**
- **While supply disruptions continue, new Special Authorization requests will not be approved for Ozempic®. Prescribers are encouraged to consider other formulary therapeutic options.**
- **Effective immediately, dapagliflozin will be moved to open benefit status (unrestricted) under existing PEI Pharmacare Drug Programs.**

The Department of Health and Wellness supports the above recommendations.