

### Use of Medications to Prevent Major Cardiovascular (CV) Events in Persons with Diabetes

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 34.2 million Americans have diabetes mellitus.<sup>1</sup> The risk of developing CV disease increases the longer an individual has diabetes.<sup>2</sup> Adults with diabetes are also twice as likely to die from CV disease than those without diabetes.<sup>3</sup> In December 2020, the Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) endorsed a new health plan performance measure: *Use of Medications to Prevent Major Cardiovascular Events in Persons with Diabetes* (CVDm). The measure evaluates the percentage of individuals 18 years and older who have type 2 diabetes and established atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) and are prescribed a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist or sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitor with proven CV benefit during the measurement year.<sup>3</sup>

The new PQA measure aligns with the 2021 American Diabetes Association guidelines that place certain GLP-1 receptor agonists and SGLT2 inhibitors as first-line add-on therapy to metformin in specific patient populations, including those with ASCVD, heart failure, or chronic kidney disease. If there is no comorbid CV disease, more cost-effective agents such as thiazolidinediones should be considered first. Sulfonylureas are generally not recommended due to weight gain and a higher risk of hypoglycemia, especially in older adults.<sup>3,4</sup>

#### Formulary status of GLP-1 receptor agonists and SGLT2 inhibitors with proven cardiovascular benefit

Drug Name	Cardiovascular Benefit	Medi-Cal	OC/OCC
<b>GLP-1 Receptor Agonists</b>			
Trulicity (dulaglutide) <sup>5</sup>	• Reduce risk of MACE in adults with T2D <b>with and without</b> CV disease	ST*, QL: 2 mL/28 days	ST*, QL: 2 mL/28 days
Ozempic (semaglutide) <sup>6</sup>	• Reduce risk of MACE in adults with T2D and CV disease	ST*, QL: 3 mL/28 days	ST*, QL: 3 mL/28 days
Victoza (liraglutide ER) <sup>7</sup>	• Reduce risk MACE in adults with T2D and CV disease	Age < 21 yrs: Formulary Age ≥ 21 yrs: PA	ST*, QL: 9 mL/30 days
<b>SGLT2 Inhibitors</b>			
Jardiance (empagliflozin) <sup>8</sup>	• Reduce risk of CV death in adults with T2D and CV disease	ST*, QL: 30/30 days	ST*, QL: 30/30 days
Invokana (canagliflozin) <sup>9</sup>	• Reduce risk of MACE in adults with T2D and CV disease • Reduce risk of ESRD, doubling of serum creatinine, CV death and hospitalization for HF in adults with T2D and diabetic nephropathy with albuminuria	ST <sup>†</sup> , QL: 30/30 days	ST <sup>††</sup> , QL: 30/30 days

OC = OneCare; OCC = OneCare Connect; MACE = major adverse cardiac events (cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke); T2D = type 2 diabetes; ESRD = end stage renal disease; HF = heart failure; HFREF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; ST = Step Therapy; QL = Quantity Limit; PA = Prior Authorization

\* Must first try metformin; † Must first try (1) metformin and (2) Jardiance or Steglatro; †† Must first try (1) metformin and (2) Jardiance or alogliptin

#### References

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4. PQA Endorses Two New Diabetes-Focused Health Plan Performance Measures. December 21, 2020. Alexandria, Va. <https://www.pqaalliance.org>. Accessed 3/11/2021.
5. American Diabetes Association. 9. Pharmacologic Approaches to Glycemic Treatment: Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes-2021. *Diabetes Care.* Jan 2021;44(Suppl 1):S111-S2125.
6. Trulicity Prescribing Information. Eli Lilly and Company; Indianapolis, IN. February 2020.
7. Ozempic Prescribing information. Novo Nordisk Inc; Plainsboro, NJ. January 2020.
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9. Jardiance Prescribing Information. Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc.; Ridgefield, CT. January 2020.
10. Invokana Prescribing Information. Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Titusville, NJ. May 2020.

Medi-Cal Educational Bulletins are available through the CalOptima website at [www.caloptima.org](http://www.caloptima.org): Providers-Medi-Cal Pharmacy Resources

The CalOptima Approved Drug List is available on our website: [www.caloptima.org](http://www.caloptima.org)  
and for PDA download at [www.epocrates.com](http://www.epocrates.com)