CLOSER LOOK

MEMORANDUM

Wegovy pill becomes the first oral GLP-1 RA approved for obesity in the UK – June 11, 2026

Follows April 2026 clearance by the UK's regulatory agency based on the phase 3 OASIS-4 trial (n=307); *launch expected in 2H26*

Novo Nordisk announced today that the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MRHA) has approved the Wegovy pill. The once-daily oral semaglutide 25 mg formulation is the first oral incretin-based therapy for weight management in the UK. The Wegovy pill is indicated for adults with obesity (BMI ≥30 kg/m^2) or overweight (BMI ≥27 kg/m^2 to <30 kg/m^2), with at least one weight-related condition. This approval allows for greater choice and flexibility to support patients' long-term weight management.

The approval is based on data from the phase 3 OASIS-4 trial (n=307), which found that adults with obesity achieved 14% weight loss (from a baseline of 106 kg) while taking oral Wegovy compared to 2% on placebo after 64 Weeks.

Novo Nordisk plans to launch the Wegovy pill in select markets in 2H26.

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OASIS-4 trial demonstrated significant weight loss of up to 14% in adults with obesity or overweight

For background, in the OASIS-4 trial, adults with obesity or overweight without diabetes who received oral semaglutide 25 mg lost 11.4% more body weight compared to placebo (13.6% versus 2.2%) at Week 64. In the oral semaglutide group, more than 75% of participants demonstrated a body weight reduction of 5% or more, while 63% had a reduction of 10% or more and 50% had a reduction of 15% or more. In contrast, just 31% of the placebo group achieved a body weight reduction of 5% or more.

The safety profile of oral semaglutide was consistent with that of injectable semaglutide. Only 7% of Wegovy pill participants discontinued treatment due to adverse events.

US launch trajectory suggests a favorable release in the UK

In 1Q26, Wegovy pill sales totaled $353 million in its first three months on the market in the US. Prescriptions soared to 1.3 million after its January 2026 launch, with 80% of patients having never taken a GLP-1 RA before. Self-pay patients have largely dominatedUS uptake and are likely to do the same in early stages of UK release.

In terms of injectable GLP-1 RAs, an estimated 1.6 million people in the UK used injectable Wegovy or Lilly's Mounjaro in the past year. Still, only a fraction of these patients received the medication from the NHS.

NHS availability of oral Wegovy is currently subject to evaluation from NICE – an independent public body in the UK that determines which drugs are made available to the NHS based on clinical- and cost-effectiveness. At the same time, self-pay, online prescription services in the UK (such as Chemist4U) have already reported a waitlist of more than 10,000 patients for the Wegovy pill.

Novo Nordisk also launched the Wegovy pill in its first OUS market last week

Last week, Novo Nordisk launched the Wegovy pill in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE was the first country outside of the US to gain access to the Wegovy pill for people with obesity. The approval was also based on results from the OASIS-4 trial.

EMA issued a positive opinion for oral Wegovy last month

In May 2026, the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) issued a positive opinion for the Wegovy pill supported by results from the OASIS-4 trial and the SELECT cardiovascular (CV) outcomes trial (n=17,604).

Typically, the European Commission (EC) takes 50 to 60 days to grant a marketing authorization once the CHMP has issued a positive opinion – implying an EU approval date of mid-July.

Wegovy pill arrives to UK market ahead of Lilly's oral orforglipron

Orforglipron has been submitted to global regulators, including in the UK, but has not yet obtained approval outside the US.

In terms of indirect comparisons, the Wegovy pill achieved greater weight loss and demonstrated better tolerability compared to Lilly's Foundayo (orforglipron). In the phase 3 ATTAIN-1 trial (n=3,127), orforglipron conferred 12% weight loss in people with obesity at Week 72, with 10% of treatment participants discontinuing due to adverse events.

However, the Wegovy pill restricts patients to a maximum of 4 ounces of water while taking the pill and must be taken on an empty stomach. Orforglipron features no water restrictions or timing restrictions, making it a potentially more convenient option for patients.

Close Concerns' Questions

1. How will Novo Nordisk price oral Wegovy in the UK given the nation's single-payer health system?
2. When does Novo Nordisk expect a NICE evaluation to expand oral Wegovy access to NHS patients?
3. When does the company anticipate launching oral Wegovy to self-pay patients in the UK?

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