CLOSER LOOK

MEMORANDUM

Novo Nordisk launches its Wegovy pill in the UAE – June 3, 2026

First OUS market to gain access to the Wegovy pill; additional OUS approvals are expected in 2H26

Novo Nordisk announced today the launch of Wegovy pill (once-daily oral semaglutide 25 mg) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE is the first country outside of the US to gain access to the Wegovy pill for people with obesity.

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Approval based on OASIS 4 trial

Earlier this week, the Emirates Drug Establishment approved the therapy for weight management and the reduction of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) based on results from the OASIS 4 trial (n=307). Injectable Wegovy has been available in the country for chronic weight management. Indications across weekly injection and once-daily oral tablet have been determined to be equivalent, allowing clinicians to switch between formulations within the same patient populations.

Dubai-based healthcare provider, Metabolic, shared in a separate release that it will be the first to offer Wegovy pills to the public. While Novo Nordisk did not share an expected timeline in today's release, Metabolic said that the pill will become available in mid-June through a phased launch.

Of note, Lilly's Foundayo was approved in the UAE in April 2026 and launched shortly thereafter.

Oral semaglutide conferred nearly 20% mean body weight loss in the OASIS-4 trial

Presented at ObesityWeek 2024 by Dr. Tim Garvey (University of Alabama), the OASIS 4 trial (n=307) found that oral semaglutide 25 mg had a similar weight loss efficacy to that of injectable semaglutide 2.4 mg. Specifically, oral semaglutide conferred nearly 17% mean body weight loss among adults with obesity or overweight and one or more weight-related comorbidities. Furthermore, one in three participants achieved ≥20% weight loss.

On safety, oral semaglutide demonstrated adverse event rates consistent with other incretin-based therapies.

EMA issued a positive opinion for oral Wegovy last month; additional OUS market entries expected 2H26

In May 2026, the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) issued a positive opinion about the Wegovy pill. The decision was supported by results from the OASIS 4 trial and the SELECT cardiovascular (CV) outcomes trial (n=17,604), which demonstrated robust weight loss and cardiometabolic benefit.

In May 2026, the company shared plans to launch the Wegovy pill in OUS markets in 2H26. With today's launch in the UAE, Novo Nordisk is ahead of schedule.

Oral Wegovy has reached over one million Americans since its launch in January 2026

Following the FDA approval of the Wegovy pill in the US, the therapy was launched across 70,000+ pharmacies and telehealth providers. Since January 2025, the therapy has reached over one million Americans.

Around two-thirds of adults in the UAE have obesity or overweight

As background, around two-thirds of adults in the UAE have overweight or obesity, and approximately one-third have obesity. Consequently, the country faces a high prevalence of obesity-related conditions, including T2D, hypertension, and CV disease, which impose a substantial burden on the healthcare system.

The UAE government has recognized obesity as a strategic public health priority with initiatives focused on healthy eating, school-based programs, physical activity promotion, and early screening for metabolic disease.

Close Concerns' Questions

1. When will oral Wegovy be available nationwide in the UAE?
2. When does Novo Nordisk anticipate approval in the EU and a potential launch?

--by Elizabeth Rose, Kat Moon, Monica Oxenreiter, and Kelly Close