CLOSER LOOK

MEMORANDUM

Novo Nordisk launches high-dose Wegovy injection (semaglutide 7.2 mg) for adults with obesity in the US – April 7, 2026

Follows FDA approval in March 2026 based on the phase 3b STEP UP trial (n=1,407), in which semaglutide 7.2 mg conferred 20.7% weight loss at Week 72

Novo Nordisk announced today that Wegovy HD (semaglutide injection 7.2 mg) is now available across the US. This follows the launch timeline that the company shared following the US FDA's approval of Wegovy HD on March 19, 2026. Novo Nordisk said that the therapy will be available through 70,000+ US pharmacies, the NovoCare cash-pay pharmacy, select telehealth providers, and more.

The approval was granted under the Commissioner's National Priority Voucher (CNPV) pilot program and includes adults with obesity (BMI ≥30 kg/m^2) who have already tolerated semaglutide 2.4 mg for at least four weeks and for whom additional weight reduction is clinically indicated. Injectable Wegovy is now available in six once-weekly doses: (i) 0.25 mg; (ii) 0.5 mg; (iii) 1 mg; (iv) 1.7 mg; (v) 2.4 mg; and (vi) 7.2 mg. See below for the design of the Wegovy HD pen.

Wegovy® HD (semaglutide) injection 7.2 mg

Source: Novo Nordisk, April 2026

Table of Contents

Semaglutide is now available in six once-weekly doses, ranging from 0.25 mg to 7.2 mg

With the approval and launch of Wegovy HD, injectable Wegovy is now available in the following doses: (i) 0.25 mg; (ii) 0.5 mg; (iii) 1 mg; (iv) 1.7 mg; (v) 2.4 mg; and (vi) 7.2 mg. As we understand it, patients need to be on 2.4 mg for at least four weeks before moving to the higher (nearly three times higher!) dose of 7.2 mg. There are no intermediate doses offered between 2.4mg and 7.2mg, and so we wonder the extent to which such a big dose increase (7.2 mg is three times the dose of 2.4 mg, by the laws of math!) may prompt GI side effects.

Interestingly, Lilly's tirzepatide is available in six doses, and the largest one is six times as big as the smallest one: (i) 2.5 mg; (ii) 5 mg; (iii) 7.5 mg; (iv) 10 mg; (v) 12.5 mg; and (vi) 15 mg. Meanwhile, the largest dose of Wegovy is nearly 30

times bigger than the smallest dose (7.2 mg vs. 0.25 mg).

Approval and launch of Wegovy HD are based on the phase 3b STEP UP trial

Novo Nordisk highlighted positive results from the phase 3b STEP UP trial (n=1,407) alongside plans to present full results at an undisclosed conference this year – we imagine this is ADA but perhaps it is EASD! The FDA approval of Wegovy HD was based on STEP UP, which compared semaglutide 7.2 mg against semaglutide 2.4 mg and placebo in adults with overweight and obesity. The trial met its primary endpoint, with semaglutide 7.2 mg demonstrating a statistically significant and superior weight loss of 20.7% at Week 72 compared with semaglutide 2.4 mg and placebo. One-third (33%) of people treated with semaglutide 7.2 mg achieved a weight loss of ≥25%, compared to a still-very-impressive 17% weight loss with semaglutide 2.4 mg and none with placebo. In terms of safety, semaglutide 7.2 mg had a safe and well-tolerated profile, with most side effects being gastrointestinal and said to be mild to moderate in nature. We continue to hope that "mild to moderate" could become a more refined description, since a therapy with a "mild" side effect is presumably more acceptable than a therapy that comes with a "moderate" side effect.

Wegovy HD launch follows the much-anticipated approval and recent launch of Lilly's Foundayo (orforglipron)

Last week, on April 1, Novo Nordisk's competitor Lilly announced that the FDA approved Foundayo (orforglipron), a once-daily oral GLP-1 RA for weight loss in adults with obesity or overweight and weight-related comorbidities. Foundayo immediately became available through LillyDirect, similar to Novo Nordisk's NovoCare platform. US availability will continue to expand.

The therapy can be taken at any time of day without food or water restrictions, an advantage that some may perceive as significant versus Novo Nordisk's oral GLP-1 RAs Rybelsus. Like Wegovy HD, Foundayo was approved under the FDA CNPV pilot program.

Close Concerns' Questions

1. How will US consumers respond to new GLP-1 RA offerings in rapid succession, including both injectable (Wegovy HD) and oral (Foundayo) options?
2. How will patients, providers, and payers weigh the benefits and drawbacks of Wegovy HD and oral Wegovy (once-daily oral semaglutide 25 mg)?
3. For which specific populations might Wegovy HD be most useful? Might certain comorbidities or lifestyle choices be taken into consideration?
4. How would even higher doses of Novo Nordisk's Wegovy "translate" in clinical trials? Is evaluation of higher doses of semaglutide being considered?

-- by Nour Khachemoune, Kat Moon, and Kelly Close