CLOSER LOOK

MEMORANDUM

Novo Nordisk introduces updated Rybelsus formulation in Canada for adults with T2D as improved absorption aims to boost adherence – June 10, 2026

Updated tablets have enhanced absorption and lower doses, focused on improving convenience

Novo Nordisk announced yesterday that Health Canada has approved an updated formulation of Rybelsus (oral semaglutide) for adults with T2D. The company stated that the optimized version delivers the same clinical profile at lower dose strengths (1.5 mg, 4 mg, and 9 mg), enabled by improved absorption and a smaller tablet size designed to better fit into daily routines. The launch comes amid rising demand for GLP-1 RAs, particularly for patients at elevated cardiovascular risk.

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Bioequivalence study supports Health Canada authorization

Health Canada's authorization was supported by a bioequivalence study (n=546) in healthy adults. The study demonstrated that the new tablet strengths achieve comparable semaglutide exposure to the original doses (3 mg, 7 mg, and 14 mg), confirming equivalent safety, efficacy, and administration requirements. Improved absorption is attributed to changes in the tablet's inactive ingredients, allowing the lower-strength tablets to deliver the same therapeutic effect. Patients currently taking Rybelsus may transition to the optimized formulation under clinician guidance.

Current semaglutide formulations offered by Novo Nordisk

Novo Nordisk now markets a broad semaglutide portfolio spanning both injectable and oral options, each positioned for different stages of diabetes and obesity care. See the table below for more details on the company's available formulations.

Product	**Route**	**Indication**	***Available Doses***
Ozempic	Injectable (weekly)	T2D	0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg
Wegovy	Injectable (weekly)	Chronic weight management and MASH	0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg, 7.2 mg
Oral Wegovy	Oral (daily)	Chronic weight management	1.5 mg, 4 mg, 9 mg, 25 mg
Rybelsus	Oral (daily)	T2D and CV risk reduction	3 mg, 7 mg, 14 mg,

Rybelsus (smaller tablet)	Oral (daily)	T2D and CV risk reduction	1.5 mg, 4 mg, 9 mg

Updated formulation aligns with the field's broader push to optimize incretin-based drugs

The new formulation aligns with a broader industry push toward GLP-1 RA optimization, where companies are redesigning oral incretins to improve absorption, eliminate administration constraints, and reduce pill burden. For example, Lilly's orforglipron, a once-daily, non-peptide oral GLP-1 RA, eliminated food or water restrictions and is positioned as a convenient alternative to peptide-based oral semaglutide. Of note, orforglipron received approval for obesity in April 2026, and regulatory filings for T2D in the US and EU are planned for this year.

Close Concerns' Questions

1. Which patients are most likely to benefit from the smaller-tablet, lower-dose Rybelsus formulation?
2. How quickly do clinicians and pharmacies expect patients to transition from the 3/7/14 mg strengths to the optimized 1.5/4/9 mg tablets?

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