

Switching Guide for GLP-1-based Medications



When switching between available Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) and Glucose-Dependent Insulinotropic Polypeptide (GLP-1/GIP RA) Receptor Agonist agents, here are some tips to support your patients.

These recommendations are based on expert opinion and clinical data, where available. Use your own clinical judgement to make treatment decisions for your patients.

Switch options for GLP-1-based medications

- **Switch to a lower dose** of same medication, if available and supports patient's A1c goals.
- **Switch to a different GLP-1-based medications.**
 - Educate your patients on dose timing when switching GLP-1-based medication frequency:
 - **Weekly to daily:** Take 1st dose of DAILY medication **seven days** after last weekly dose.
 - **Daily to weekly:** Take 1st dose of WEEKLY medication **one day** after last daily dose.
 - Use dosing equivalency table below for patients without any GI tolerability concerns.

Equivalent therapeutic doses^{1,2}

For patients with history of moderate to severe GI side effects, consider starting at the **lowest therapeutic** dose.

Medication	Brand Name	Frequency	Equivalent THERAPEUTIC Doses [^]			
			0.75 mg	1.5 mg	3* - 4.5 mg [¶]	5 mg [¶]
Dulaglutide	Trulicity	Weekly	0.75 mg	1.5 mg	3* - 4.5 mg [¶]	
Semaglutide (SQ)	Ozempic	Weekly		0.5 mg	1 mg [¶]	2 mg [¶]
Liraglutide	Victoza	Daily	1.2 mg	1.8 mg		
Oral Semaglutide	Rybelsus	Daily	7 mg [#]	14 mg		
Tirzepatide	Mounjaro	Weekly				5 mg [¶] 7.5 - 15 mg [¶]

[^] Sensitizing doses are excluded from the table, as they have no glycemic impact.

* In patients with prior moderate to severe GI side effects, consider converting to lowest therapeutic dose.

[#] Select the lowest therapeutic dose of new injectable agent.

[¶] Experts recommend switching to 14 mg oral semaglutide or add to 1.8mg of Liraglutide now.

Managing missed doses^{2,3}

These tables help you decide what dose to restart when there has been an interruption in these commonly used GLP-1-based medications:

Liraglutide daily	Last dose given	
	1.2 mg	1.8 mg
If drug interruption is...	Then...	
1 – 2 doses	1.2 mg for 7 days	
3 doses or more	0.6 mg* for 7 days	

Dulaglutide	Last dose given	
	1.5 mg	3 mg or 4.5 mg
If drug interruption is...	Then...	
1 – 2 doses	Same dose	Same dose
3 – 4 doses [^]	Same dose	1.5 mg
5 doses or more	0.75 mg [#]	0.75 mg [#]

Semaglutide	Last dose given	
	1 mg	2 mg
If drug interruption is...	Then...	
1 – 2 doses	Same dose	Same dose
3 – 4 doses [^]	0.5 mg	1 mg
5 doses or more	0.25 mg*	0.25 mg*

Tirzepatide	Last dose given	
	5 mg	7.5 mg or higher
If drug interruption is...	Then...	
1 – 2 doses	Same dose	Same dose
3 – 4 doses [^]	Same dose	5 mg
5 doses or more	2.5 mg*	2.5 mg*

[^] For patients with a history of severe GI side effects, restart at the lowest therapeutic dose, and in severely sensitive patients who have missed four doses, consider a sensitizing dose.

* Dose is a sensitizing dose. This dose offers no glycemic impact, but lowers chance of GI side effects. Titrate based on labeled dosing instructions.

[#] Dulaglutide does NOT have a sensitizing dose.

References: 1. Almandoz JP, 2020. doi: 10.2337/cd19-0100, 2. Whitley HP, 2023 doi: 10.2337/cd23-0023, 3. <https://michmed.org/kqMdk>

Tips for introducing non-auto-injector pens!

Consider the following when switching patients from **auto-injector pens** (Mounjaro or Trulicity) to a **pen requiring a pen needle** (Ozempic or Victoza).

- **Pen device looks like an insulin pen – patient will see the needle**
- **Need to prime pen before 1st dose – dial to 2 dots in dosing window**
- **Hold for 6 seconds after injecting, wait for dose counter window to display “0”**

Here are key differences to discuss regarding the Ozempic pen:

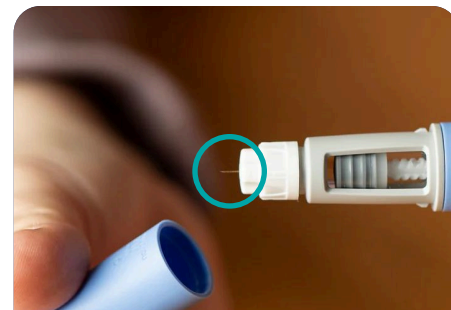
- **Each multi-dose pen contains 4 doses**
- **Pen comes with 4-6 needles – use a new pen needle for each dose**
- **Pen in use can be stored at room temperature for up to 56 days**

Tips for switching to generic Victoza!

- Do not forget separate prescription for pen needles
- Remind patients this GLP-1-based medication is given once daily
- Each multi-dose pen contains 30 doses
- When prescribing Victoza, package size is dependent on dose:
 - 2 pens (6 mL) for 1.2 mg dose
 - 3 pens (9 mL) for 1.8 mg dose
- Remind patients generic Victoza can be stored at room temperature for 30 days
- Consider adding SGLT2i for additional glycemic lowering

Additional strategies

- **Switch to an alternative medication.** Consider if the patient is a good candidate for an SGLT2 inhibitor
- **Consider oral Rybelsus**



Needle is as wide (thin) as a human hair and 1/8 inch long



Ozempic (semaglutide)
How-To Video Series
michmed.org/BnMk8



Victoza (liraglutide)
How-To Video Series
michmed.org/eWAgm

Additional resources



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Dosing Information for SGLT2i and GLP-1 RA for Type 2 Diabetes
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