



CVS Resumes Coverage of Lilly's Zepbound After Patient Outcry

Description

CVS Caremark will reinstate coverage for the weight loss drug Zepbound this year, following its removal from the list of covered medications last year, according to the manufacturer Eli Lilly. This decision is significant as CVS Caremark is one of the largest pharmacy benefit managers in the United States, influencing which drugs millions can obtain through insurance and the costs they must pay.

The previous removal of Zepbound from CVS Caremark's formulary led to complaints from patients. Many said they had to switch to Wegovy, a competitor's drug from Novo Nordisk, even though they had seen better results with Zepbound. Importantly, patients using Lilly's diabetes drug Mounjaro, which has the same active ingredient as Zepbound, were not affected.

A class-action lawsuit against the removal of Zepbound was filed in September and remains ongoing. The drug has a monthly list price of \$1,086, though Lilly provides discounts for cash payments. Still, patients can pay hundreds monthly for the medication.

Eli Lilly announced that Zepbound will return to CVS Caremark's formulary by October 1, with some privately insured patients potentially paying a \$25 copay. Additionally, Foundayo, Lilly's new weight loss pill approved in April, will also be listed starting Monday.

A spokesperson for CVS Caremark indicated that this change impacts around 25 to 30 million people. However, being included in the formulary does not ensure coverage by every insurance plan, as employers ultimately decide on medication payments. Notably, rival pharmacy benefit managers Express Scripts and Optum Rx already provide coverage for Zepbound.

Vocabulary List:

1. **reinstate** //ri:ɪn'steɪt// (verb): put back into use or position
2. **formulary** //fɔːrmjələri// (noun): official list of medicines covered by insurance
3. **copay** //kəʊpeɪ// (noun): fixed amount a patient pays for medicine
4. **lawsuit** //lɔːsu:t// (noun): a claim someone makes in court
5. **influencing** //ɪnfluənsɪŋ// (verb): causing a change in what people do
6. **competitor** //kəm'petətər// (noun): company or person that sells similar products

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What is the monthly list price of the drug Zepbound?
Option: \$1,500
Option: \$1,086
Option: \$950
Option: \$1,250
2. When will Zepbound return to CVS Caremark's formulary?
Option: October 1
Option: November 1
Option: September 1
Option: December 1
3. Which company manufactures the weight loss drug Zepbound?
Option: Novo Nordisk
Option: AbbVie
Option: Eli Lilly
Option: Pfizer
4. What copay will some privately insured patients potentially pay for Zepbound?
Option: \$10
Option: \$15
Option: \$25
Option: \$30
5. Which competitor's drug did some patients switch to after Zepbound was removed?
Option: Wegovy
Option: Mounjaro
Option: Ozempic
Option: Trulicity
6. How many people does the change in coverage for Zepbound potentially impact?
Option: 50 million
Option: 25 to 30 million
Option: 10 million
Option: 5 million



True-False

7. CVS Caremark removed Zepbound from its list of covered medications last year.
8. Mounjaro is a competitor's drug to Zepbound.
9. Patients were happy with the removal of Zepbound from CVS Caremark's formulary.
10. CVS Caremark is one of the smallest pharmacy benefit managers in the United States.
11. Eli Lilly's new weight loss pill, Foundayo, was approved in April.
12. A class-action lawsuit against the removal of Zepbound was filed in October.

Gap-Fill

13. The drug Zepbound will return to CVS Caremark's formulary by _____ .
14. Patients who switched to Wegovy reported better results with _____ .
15. The monthly list price of Zepbound is _____ according to Eli Lilly.
16. A spokesperson indicated that the change impacts around _____ million people.
17. The removal of Zepbound led to patients being unhappy and filing a class-action _____ .
18. CVS Caremark's decision influences which drugs millions can obtain through _____ .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. \$1,086 2. October 1 3. Eli Lilly 4. \$25 5. Wegovy 6. 25 to 30 million

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. October 1 14. Zepbound 15. \$1,086 16. 25 to 30 17. lawsuit 18. insurance

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4



POST TAG

1. B2
2. CVS Caremark
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. Level 4
6. weight loss drug
7. Zepbound

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