



RFK Jr. Faces Showdown Over Weight-Loss Drugs

Description

As a weight management specialist, Dr. Mollie Cecil has firsthand experience with the groundbreaking effects of the latest weight-loss drugs, known as GLP-1 agonists. These medications have significantly helped her patients, as well as improved her own health, leading to a 40-pound weight loss and enhanced cholesterol levels and arthritis. Yet, financial concerns about losing insurance coverage prompted her to halt the medication, subsequently regaining most of the weight.

These potent weight-loss drugs, often not covered by insurance, cost around \$1,000 monthly. Federal law prohibits Medicare from covering these drugs for weight loss, although they are covered for diabetes and cardiovascular treatment. Only 13 states offer Medicaid coverage for weight-loss purposes. In response, former President Joe Biden proposed expanding Medicare and Medicaid coverage to include these medications. However, implementing this policy now awaits President Donald Trump's administration, which is facing internal disagreements. While appointed Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr. criticizes these drugs, arguing for healthier food solutions, Mehmet Oz, proposed to lead Medicare and Medicaid services, advocates for their wider use.

The substantial cost of GLP-1 drugs has sparked a dilemma for both private and government insurance providers. With insurance companies often opting out of coverage, patients can find themselves dropped once they lose enough weight, disregarding the medication's necessity for maintaining weight loss. Government plans to provide coverage could cost billions over a decade, posing a significant financial challenge. Nonetheless, experts like Dr. Cecil argue that investing in these medications could ultimately offer substantial long-term savings by reducing obesity-related health issues. If access to these effective drugs improved, it could fundamentally change the landscape of obesity management in America.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Agonists** /'ægənɪsts/ (noun): Substances that activate certain receptors in the body to produce a response.
2. **Prohibit** /prə'hɪbɪt/ (verb): To formally forbid something by law rule or other authority.
3. **Substantial** /səb'stænfəl/ (adjective): Of considerable importance size or worth.
4. **Dilemma** /dɪ'lem.ə/ (noun): A situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives.
5. **Cardiovascular** /,kɑːr.di.ʊs'væs.kjə.lər/ (adjective): Relating to the heart and blood vessels.
6. **Investing** /ɪn'vestɪŋ/ (verb): To allocate money into something with the expectation of a profit or material result.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What type of drugs are known as GLP-1 agonists?
 - Option: Weight-loss drugs
 - Option: Antibiotics
 - Option: Painkillers
 - Option: Vitamins
2. How much do GLP-1 agonists cost monthly?
 - Option: \$500
 - Option: \$750
 - Option: \$1,000
 - Option: \$1,500
3. Which former President proposed expanding Medicare and Medicaid coverage to include GLP-1 medications?
 - Option: Barack Obama
 - Option: George W. Bush
 - Option: Joe Biden
 - Option: Bill Clinton
4. Who argues for healthier food solutions instead of GLP-1 drugs?
 - Option: Mehmet Oz
 - Option: Dr. Mollie Cecil
 - Option: Robert F Kennedy Jr.
 - Option: Donald Trump
5. How many states currently offer Medicaid coverage for weight-loss purposes?
 - Option: 5
 - Option: 10
 - Option: 13
 - Option: 18
6. What is one potential long-term benefit of investing in GLP-1 medications?
 - Option: Increased weight gain
 - Option: Reduced obesity-related health issues
 - Option: Higher insurance costs
 - Option: More side effects



True-False

7. GLP-1 agonists are often covered by insurance.
8. Federal law currently allows Medicare coverage for GLP-1 drugs for weight loss.
9. Government plans to provide coverage for GLP-1 medications could cost very little.
10. Dr. Mollie Cecil gained weight after halting GLP-1 medication due to financial concerns.
11. Mehmet Oz advocates for the wider use of GLP-1 drugs.
12. Medicaid coverage for weight-loss purposes is available in all states.

Gap-Fill

13. GLP-1 agonists can cost around \$ _____ monthly.
14. Dr. Mollie Cecil experienced a _____ weight loss by using GLP-1 agonists.
15. Only _____ states offer Medicaid coverage for weight-loss purposes.
16. GLP-1 drugs have the potential to reduce obesity-related health issues and lead to substantial long-term _____.
17. Government plans to provide coverage for GLP-1 medications could pose a significant financial _____.
18. The cost of GLP-1 drugs has sparked a dilemma for both private and government _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Weight-loss drugs 2. \$1,000 3. Joe Biden 4. Robert F Kennedy Jr. 5. 13 6. Reduced obesity-related health issues

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

Gap-Fill: 13. 1,000



14. 40-pound 15. 13 16. savings 17. challenge 18. insurance providers

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term refers to substances that bind to a receptor and activate or stimulate it to produce a biological response?

- Option: Agonists
- Option: Prohibit
- Option: Hazardous
- Option: Impulsive

2. Which term describes the process of interaction and integration among people companies and governments worldwide?

- Option: Insecurity
- Option: Globalization
- Option: Compliance
- Option: Array

3. What term refers to the act or process of passing something from one person or place to another?

- Option: Quarantine
- Option: Infectious
- Option: Transmission
- Option: Mitigate

4. What is the term for the ability of an organism to resist a particular infection or toxin?

- Option: Surge
- Option: Immunity
- Option: Substantial
- Option: Dilemma

5. Which term refers to the act of conforming to a rule command or request?

- Option: Demands
- Option: Extreme
- Option: Caution
- Option: Compliance

6. What activity involves allocating resources usually money in expectation of benefit in the future?

- Option: Accuracy
- Option: Investing



- Option: Severe
- Option: Contagious

7. Which term refers to the process of combining different elements into a whole?

- Option: Unprecedented
- Option: Integration
- Option: Cardiovascular
- Option: Dilemma

8. What term describes the quality or state of being correct or precise?

- Option: Risk
- Option: Impulsive
- Option: Accuracy
- Option: Symptoms

9. What are the subjective manifestations of a pathological condition?

- Option: Risk
- Option: Infectious
- Option: Symptoms
- Option: Consequences

10. Which term refers to the conditions under which something is limited or restricted?

- Option: Caution
- Option: Limitations
- Option: Array
- Option: Navigation

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

- 11. _____ diseases refer to conditions that involve the heart or blood vessels.
- 12. The scale of the natural disaster was _____ and the impact was felt for years.
- 13. Efforts to _____ the effects of climate change are crucial for the planet's future.
- 14. The museum displayed an impressive _____ of artifacts from different historical periods.
- 15. Individuals exposed to contagious diseases may be placed in _____ to prevent



further spread.

16. The storm warning indicated _____ weather conditions with high winds and heavy rainfall.

17. Studying for medical school exams is known to be _____ due to the vast amount of material to cover.

18. His _____ decision to quit his job surprised everyone as he had not planned it beforehand.

19. Working with certain chemicals without proper protective gear can be extremely _____ to health.

20. The flu virus is known to be highly _____ and can spread rapidly in crowded places.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)



21. She faced a moral when deciding between helping her friend cheat or reporting the cheating.
22. The common cold is an disease that spreads easily among people.
23. Scientific experiments require a high level of to ensure reliable results.
24. There was a sudden in the number of COVID-19 cases in the region leading to a healthcare crisis.
25. The company experienced a increase in profits after implementing cost-saving measures.
26. Advanced GPS technology has revolutionized the way we approach while driving.
27. The scientific discovery was considered due to its groundbreaking nature.
28. The high-stress job often places significant on employees to meet tight deadlines.
29. When handling hazardous materials it is essential to proceed with great to prevent accidents.
30. is a type of respiratory virus that can cause symptoms similar to the common cold.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Agonists 2. Globalization 3. Transmission 4. Immunity 5. Compliance 6. Investing 7. Integration 8. Accuracy 9. Symptoms 10. Limitations

Gap-Fill: 11. Cardiovascular 12. unprecedented 13. mitigate 14. array 15. quarantine 16. severe 17. demanding 18. impulsive 19. hazardous 20. contagious

Matching sentence: 1. Dilemma 2. Infectious 3. Accuracy 4. Surge 5. Substantial 6. Navigation 7. Unprecedented 8. Demands 9. Caution 10. Metapneumovirus

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4

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