

## Discover & Deliver: New Weight Management Treatment May Help those At-Risk for COVID-19

Earlier this month, the [FDA approved](#) the first new treatment for chronic weight management since 2014, with doctors calling it one of the most effective weight loss drugs on the market.

**What it is:** The new medicine from pharmaceutical innovator Novo Nordisk, [Wegovy \(semaglutide\)](#), is the first prescription weight-loss medication with a once-weekly dosing. The treatment—used with a reduced calorie meal plan and increased physical activity—aims to help adults with certain weight conditions lose weight and keep the weight off.

**COVID connection:** [According to the CDC](#), having obesity may triple the risk of hospitalization due to a COVID-19 infection. The global increase in the prevalence of obesity is a public health issue that has severe cost implications to healthcare systems. In the United States, more than 42% of adults live with obesity.

**What the data says:** The [FDA approval](#) was based on the results of clinical trials with approximately 4,500 patients. The trials demonstrated that patients taking Wegovy had a significant reduction in body weight—about 14.9%—compared with a placebo.

Novo Nordisk expects to launch Wegovy this month and is expected to be on pharmacy shelves by June 18.

—Scott Hall, Senior Director, Global Innovation Policy Center

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