Gateway HEALTH PARTNERS

GLP-1 Coverage Strategy Checklist

A practical tool for evaluating GLP-1 coverage, cost management, and long-term sustainability.*

1 Review Your Coverage Model

- [ ] Identify your current coverage model (open access, prior authorization–gated, tiered/step therapy, indication-specific, or excluded)
- [ ] Confirm the model matches your plan's clinical and cost management goals
- [ ] Track how the model differs for weight management, diabetes, and other indications
- [ ] Assess member experience and administrative burden of the current model
- [ ] See how your model compares to peer or industry standards

2 Evaluate Access, Affordability, and Cost Tradeoffs

- [ ] Determine how current policy balances member access against plan affordability
- [ ] Identify which cost management controls are in place/available
- [ ] Evaluate whether tightening one control is creating unintended effects on another control
- [ ] Quantify the financial impact of current utilization trends on total plan spend
- [ ] Confirm tradeoff decisions are documented and reviewed on a regular basis

3 Identify Red Flags in Current Strategy

- [ ] No systematic tracking of utilization or spend trend
- [ ] Lack of clinical oversight in coverage decisions
- [ ] No mechanism to find rapid or unchecked cost trend increases
- [ ] Inconsistent application of criteria across member populations
- [ ] No process for periodically reassessing the coverage strategy

4 Assess Clinical Criteria and Utilization Management

- [ ] Confirm clinical criteria for initiating therapy are current and evidence-based
- [ ] Review which utilization management (UM) tools in place
- [ ] Assess whether UM tools are appropriately balancing clinical rigor with administrative friction
- [ ] Verify criteria are reviewed by clinical staff and not set by administrative policy alone
- [ ] Confirm a defined process exists for exceptions and appeals

5 Strengthen Data and Projections

- [ ] Confirm access to utilization data
- [ ] Review adherence data and total cost of care trends
- [ ] Confirm cost projections are updated regularly
- [ ] Use projections to stress-test the current strategy against future utilization growth
- [ ] Make sure that data and projections directly inform strategy adjustments, not just reporting

6 Finalize Strategic Sign-Off

- [ ] Confirm the coverage strategy reflects clinical insight, financial impact, and long-term sustainability
- [ ] Identify the owner(s) accountable for monitoring and updating the strategy
- [ ] Set a review schedule for reviewing this checklist

Looking for a partner to help navigate GLP-1 coverage decisions?

Gateway Health Partners helps plan sponsors design, evaluate, and manage sustainable GLP-1 coverage. Contact sales@gatewayhealthpartners.com to learn more.

*Disclaimer: This checklist is a planning tool intended to help plan sponsors organize their own evaluation of a GLP-1 coverage strategy. It is not a recommendation, endorsement, or clinical/coverage determination by Gateway Health Partners. Plan sponsors should use their own clinical, financial and legal review processes when making coverage decisions.