

Five Things To Know About the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge Program

On July 1, 2026, Medicare launched the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge Program to help eligible beneficiaries pay for GLP-1 weight-loss medications. Under this program, eligible beneficiaries will pay a \$50 flat fee per month, regardless of income. This program provides much-needed access for beneficiaries managing obesity and related cardiometabolic conditions. Here are five key things to know about the Bridge program:

1 It's a Short-Term Assistance Program, not a Permanent Benefit

The Medicare GLP-1 Bridge is a short-term program run by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services applying to Part D beneficiaries. It is designed to expand near-term access to GLP-1 drugs while generating data to inform potential future coverage. The Bridge program is scheduled to operate from July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027.

2 It's Designed to Operate Outside of the Standard Part D Benefit

Unlike standard Part D drug coverage, the Bridge program operates outside of the standard Medicare benefit and payment flow. Part D plan sponsors do not carry financial risk for these drugs and are not required to opt in, meaning eligible beneficiaries can access GLP-1 drugs through the program regardless of the plan's participation.

3 A Flat \$50 Copay

Eligible beneficiaries will pay a flat \$50 copay for GLP-1 drugs under the Bridge program. But because the program sits outside the standard Part D payment flow, the \$50 copay does not count toward the True Out-of-Pocket costs, and no Low-Income Subsidy is available. Ensuring patients understand these tradeoffs is essential to make informed decisions.

4 Eligibility & Prior Authorization Are Still Required

Access for the Bridge program is not automatic; a prior authorization form and eligibility must be confirmed before GLP-1 drugs are provided under the program. Coverage only stays under certain GLP-1 drugs and eligible Part D beneficiaries, emphasizing the need for clear guidance as the demonstration rolls out.

5 Support is Available for Eligibility and Verification

Potential beneficiaries can check eligibility and learn more at [Medicare.gov/glp1bridge](https://www.medicare.gov/glp1bridge), or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227); TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.