

## Weight Loss Medication Coverage Change Fact Sheet November 2024

Beginning January 1, 2025, or upon an employer group's or individual purchaser's plan renewal after that date, the weight loss medications listed below will no longer be covered for some Blue Shield of California (Blue Shield) commercial PPO and HMO plan members unless authorization for medical necessity is provided by Blue Shield. This benefit change affects certain Blue Shield PPO and HMO plans, whether they were purchased directly from Blue Shield or via the Covered California healthcare exchange.

Blue Shield will authorize weight loss medications for members affected by the benefit change if the medication is determined to be medically necessary for the treatment of a current or previous diagnosis of Class III (morbid) obesity. Coverage for these medications continues to require the patient's participation in a comprehensive weight loss program, including a reduced calorie diet, physical activity, and behavior therapy for a reasonable period of time prior to, and while using, the weight loss medication.

This benefit change applies to the following prescription medications:

- Adipex-P®
- benzphetamine
- Contrave®
- diethylpropion
- Lomaira™
- orlistat
- phendimetrazine
- phentermine
- Qsymia®
- Saxenda®
- Wegovy®
- Xenical®
- Zepbound™

Please be certain to verify eligibility and authorization requirements before prescribing any of the medications listed above to a Blue Shield commercial PPO or HMO plan member. Blue Shield members affected by this benefit change who choose to use any of the listed medications but do not meet the new authorization requirements will be responsible for the full cost of the medication.

You may view the authorization requirements on Blue Shield's Provider Connection website at <https://www.blueshieldca.com/en/provider> beginning January 1, 2025. After login, the information will be available under *Authorizations > Pharmacy Authorizations*.

### What to expect

- Members who are using any of the weight loss medications listed above for reasons other than being diagnosed with Class III obesity will be notified of the changes to their benefit.
- Members who have previously received prior authorization approval will be able to continue filling their prescription until the end of their authorized period.

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Contrave® is a registered trademark of Nalpropion Pharmaceuticals LLC

Lomaira™ is a trademark of AVANTHI, Inc.

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