

November 2025

## Wegovy Coverage for the Prevention of Major Adverse Cardiovascular Outcomes

As a reminder from our previous notification, GLP-1 medications that are FDA-approved for weight loss will no longer be covered effective January 1, 2026, for most Blue Cross VT plans. We will continue to cover GLP-1 medications that are FDA-approved for Type 2 diabetes, with prior authorization. In addition, Wegovy may be covered for the prevention of certain obesity-related major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE). The criteria for MACE prevention are based on the SELECT trial. For more information on coverage of GLP-1 medications for MACE, view our notice.

[View Details](#)

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## Prior Authorizations: Act 111 Changes for January 1, 2026

Beginning January 1, 2026, prior authorizations for medically necessary services, excluding prescription drugs or out of network services, will be waived for eligible members when ordered by any primary care provider that has a contract with us. For more details on the changes and submitting claims, view our notice.

[Act 111 Changes](#)

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## Medical and Payment Policy Updates

Effective January 1, 2026, payment and medical policy updates take effect. Please be sure to review the upcoming changes.

[Medical Policy Updates](#)[Payment Policy Updates](#)

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## Pharmacy Updates

- Infiximab product medical benefit drug changes for January 1, 2026
  - Inflectra (Q5103) becomes preferred and **no longer requires prior authorization.**
  - Avsola (Q5121) remains the same (preferred) and **does not require prior authorization.**
  - Remicade/infiximab (J1745) **requires prior authorization.**
- NPF Formulary changes for January 1, 2026
  - All members and providers affected by formulary changes received a letter in October 2025.
  - **GLP-1 medications reminder:** The GLP-1 medications Zepbound, Wegovy, and Saxenda are excluded for the indication of weight loss for members on Qualified Health Plans, Blue Edge Business, and most employer plans as of January 1, 2026. Members who continue to use these medications will be responsible for the full cost.

- o **Brand medications excluded on the formulary** (must use generic equivalent)
  - Adderall XR
  - Aldactone
  - Aptiom
  - Brilinta
  - Copaxone 40mg/mL
  - Dymista
  - Entresto
- o **Medications excluded with alternatives**
  - Adalimumab-adbm and Amjevita (biosimilars to Humira) will be excluded. The alternative is Simlandi, which is currently on formulary. Patients can be switched prior to January 1, 2026.
  - Wezlana (biosimilar to Stelara) will be excluded. The alternative is Yesintek, which is currently on formulary. Patients can be switched prior to January 1, 2026.
  - Ajoy will be excluded. Emgality is moving to preferred on January 1, 2026. Aimovig, Nurtec, and Qulipta will continue to be on formulary.
  - Candesartan
  - Dayvigo
  - Doxycycline 40mg (Rosacea)
  - Estrogel 0.06%
  - Omeclamox Pak
- o **Up Tier**
  - Meter and Test Strips (Lifescan mftr) will move to nonpreferred. Patients can switch to Contour (currently a preferred option) or Freestyle/Precision (will be preferred on January 1, 2026).
  - Wegovy for the indication of Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events (MACE)
  - Depen Titra
  - Supprelin LA

For the most up to date information on BCBSVT and NPF formularies, visit our Lists of [Covered Medications](#).

For questions regarding drug coverage or clinical questions, reach out to our Clinical Pharmacist, Amy Stoll, PharmD, at [stolla@bcbsvt.com](mailto:stolla@bcbsvt.com) or 802-371-3657.

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## Billing Requirements for National Drug Code

Beginning January 1, 2026, the billing requirement for reporting a National Drug Code (NDC) on professional claims will be fully enforced. It is required to report an NDC along with the unit of measure and quantity on the claim submission.

**Incomplete or inaccurate claims submissions not meeting the requirements will be denied.** View our notice for more detail on this requirement.

[View Notice](#)

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## Free Provider Psychiatric Consultations

The Vermont Consultation & Psychiatry Access Program (VTCPAP) provides free, fast psychiatric consultations to registered practices that care for pediatric and perinatal patients. Providers can receive peer-to-peer support on screening, diagnosis, and treatment planning from licensed social workers or psychiatrists. Calls are returned within 30 minutes during business hours. Learn more about the service at [vtcpap.com](http://vtcpap.com).

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## Identification Card Change

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association has begun making changes to member ID cards. While the health plan product type (EPO, PPO, HMO) will remain, the suitcase logo will be phased out, along with additional small changes. We'll provide more details in the coming months.

## Claims Xten-Select Upgrade

An update to ClaimsXten-Select™ is scheduled for Thursday, January 1, 2026. Review the notice to understand the upcoming changes.

Upgrade Details

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## Verisys Reminder

Verisys, a national credentials verification organization, is responsible for primary source verification for our credentialing and re-credentialing process.

Verisys may outreach to you directly if additional actions are required to complete the primary source verification. **To ensure your network status isn't interrupted, please respond immediately if they reach out to you.**

One way to avoid outreach from Verisys is to ensure your Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) information is current and attested. You can set up, view, and update your CAQH ProView™ account at <https://proview.caqh.org/>. Check your CAQH account to ensure:

- All information is current and that current copies of malpractice insurance, current licensure, DEA, etc. are successfully uploaded.
- Your provider status is at Re-Attestation.
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont is authorized to receive your provider data from CAQH.

If you are unable to access CAQH or have questions regarding the primary source verification process, contact Verisys Customer Service at (855) 743-6161, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET. If you are a first-time user, you can find an online demonstration of the application process at <https://proview.caqh.org/>.

*Note: No action is required from you currently. The above is informational.*

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## Prior Approval List Updates

The prior approval list has been updated to reflect the addition and removal of codes, effective January 1, 2026. Review our notice for details on the updated codes.

View Updates

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## Routine Code Maintenance

Review our notice for details on the implementation of new and revised codes, effective January 1, 2026.

Routine Maintenance

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## Preventive Care Guide Updates

The preventive care guide is updated with additional codes. Review our notice for more details on the added codes.

View Guide Updates

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## Provider Handbook Updates

Updates to the provider handbook have been made to the following sections: Claim Specific Guidelines, Act 111 Primary Care Provider Waiver of Prior Authorization,

Handbook Updates

## 2026-2027 Electronic Fund Transfer Payment Schedule

Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) payments are made on Fridays for that Tuesday's provider voucher(s). When a holiday falls on a Friday, the EFT will occur on the following Monday. EFT payments will be made on Mondays for the following holidays next year:

- Juneteenth
- Independence Day
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Day

## Thanksgiving Holiday Closure

We will be closed on Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will reopen for normal business hours on Monday, December 1, 2025.

## 2026 Holiday Schedule

Blue Cross VT and Carelon are closed January 1 and January 19. Please review our 2026 holiday schedule, including information for our partners.

2026 Holiday Schedule

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, 445 Industrial Lane, Berlin, Vermont 05602, USA

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