bcdiabetes.ca
Patient Care + Research + Clinical Trials

Dr. Tom Elliott MBBS, FRCPC
Medical Director

400 - 210 W Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 3W2 Canada

phone: 604.683.3734
fax: 604.628.3821
email: moa@bcdiabetes.ca

Semaglutide - reducing daily cost to $3.50 with 0.5 mg weekly dosing

As of 2020-Jul-23 semaglutide ("Ozempic") is the most effective of the GLP-1 agonists on the Canadian market.

At the full maintenance dose of 1.0 mg weekly the cost is around $7.00 per day. Many patients find that a dose of 0.5 mg weekly also provides excellent results. If care in prescribing is taken the dose of 0.5 mg weekly costs $3.50 per day. Below is described how to prescribe semaglutide such that your patient can take advantage of the $3.50 per day pricing.

On the prescription write

Semaglutide 1.0 mg weekly or as directed

Instruct the patient as follows. "You will be dispensed two pens, each containing 2 mg of semaglutide. The box the pen comes in will say Ozempic 1 mg. This will cost approximately $207 (including dispensing fee). Have no fear, at a dose of 0.5 mg weekly this will last you 8 weeks. Each pen is designed to be used to give 1.0 mg weekly, not less - as such there is no demarcation of 0.25, 0.5 or 0.75 mg. If you count the clicks (notches on the pen) as you turn the dosing dial you will notice that there are approximately 78 clicks for 1.0 mg. To give yourself 0.5 mg turn the dosing dial to 38 clicks and administer! You will notice at around 38 clicks the notch on the dosing dial is subtly different. To give yourself the starting dose of 0.25 mg you will need to give yourself 19 clicks.

Note: if the prescription is written as **semaglutide 0.5 mg weekly or as directed**
the pharmacy will dispense two pens, each with 1 mg and the total cost will be approximately $207 ($7.00/day) and the pens will have gradations of 0.25 and 0.5 mg.

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