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Semaglutide (Ozempic) covered by BC Pharmacare for Type 2 diabetes

Big news today for the 200,000 British Columbians living with Type 2 diabetes who are overweight or who have a history of heart attack or stroke. Today BC Pharmacare announced coverage of semaglutide (“Ozempic”), a once-a-week shot, for individuals living with Type 2 diabetes on oral medication alone (metformin & glyburide) or on insulin plus metformin.

Semaglutide is very effective at lowering sugar and lowering weight; for those with a history of heart attack and stroke it reduces the risk of death by almost 20%. The shot is almost painless; the [technique can be learned in minutes](#). The only common side-effect is nausea which occurs in 10% of individuals and often settles with time. The usual maintenance dose is 1.0 mg weekly.

[BC Pharmacare coverage is subject to the annual deductible which resets every January 1.](#)

Once an individual hits their deductible (2% of net family income) a 70% subsidy kicks in reducing the daily cost from \$7.00 to \$2.10 per day.