

 **Physicians Weight Control**

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NOTICE REGARDING FDA SHORTAGE LIST

To our patients,

As many of you know, GLP-1 agonist drugs such as Semaglutide and Tirzepatide have become largely available through compounders due to their brand name drugs being placed on the FDA shortage list. These drugs include Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro, Zepbound, among other agonists not offered by PWC. Drugs on the shortage list are allowed to be copied by compounding pharmacies even if there is no generic form of the drug available. This acts to prevent monopolies and price gouging by the manufacturers as well as provide patients with necessary medications for diabetes.

When a drug is removed from the shortage list pharmacy compounders may continue to compound the drug under certain circumstances. The first circumstance is to ensure the patient's access is not interrupted while transitioning to a brand name drug. And the second is if the compounder no longer copies the formulation and uses a novel formulation of the drug product. Due to the economics of these new drugs, many are still necessary but not attainable with current insurance requirements and therefore we still have access to the drug in its copied form. Many pharmacy compounders are working on reformulation to ensure the drug stays as close to the name brand as possible without violating the FDA rules.

We want to assure our patients that we will do everything to ensure access to their prescribed medication. The steps we are taking are as follows:

Stocking a surplus of the medication to ensure we can continue to prescribe for multiple months if no longer available in compounded form.

Gaining access to the brand name drugs. We will give patients the option to move to the brand name drug. We expect brand name pricing to be much more expensive and still unattainable for many patients, but we will do everything we can to bring that pricing down as far as possible.

Transitioning patients from medications off the shortage list to medications on the shortage list.

Informing patients of any reformulation of compounded drugs, or if any of our compounding pharmacies plan to discontinue formulations.

Sincerely,
Dr. William J. Strowhouer
Medical Director