Semaglutide

Approved human use · product-specific labels.



Guide prepared November 13, 2026 · profile review dates retained

KEEP IN MIND Evidence applies to the studied formulation, route, population and outcome—not every product sharing a name.

01 What is it?

Semaglutide activates the GLP-1 receptor, helping regulate blood glucose and appetite. It appears in several approved medicines with different formulations and indications; the molecule's name alone does not tell you which benefits or warnings apply. [1]

02 Potential benefits

Approved products have distinct diabetes, chronic weight-management, and risk-reduction indications. Improves glucose-dependent signaling and can reduce appetite. [1]

03 Evidence & its limits

An approved semaglutide product and an unapproved preparation are not equivalent evidence categories. FDA has received reports involving dosing errors with compounded products and cautions that some sellers use semaglutide salts different from the active ingredient in approved drugs. [1]

04 Risks & unknowns

Gastrointestinal reactions are common and can be serious. Product identity, labeled indication, contraindications, and compounded-product distinctions are essential. [1]

05 Status & scope

It appears in several approved medicines with different formulations and indications; the molecule's name alone does not tell you which benefits or warnings apply. [1]

06 November 2026 safety update

FDA requires a warning about a potential increased risk of NAION, a rare optic-nerve condition that can cause permanent vision loss. Seek prompt medical attention for sudden painless vision loss or other visual changes. Individual labels may still be undergoing revision. [4]

SOURCES / Tap a reference to open

[1] Full evidence record, references and review dates
[2] FDA Drugs@FDA / Ozempic application record
[3] FDA Drugs@FDA / Wegovy application record
[4] FDA / GLP-1 eye-safety notice / November 9, 2026

Selective educational summary, not treatment or dosing advice. Existing profile review dates retained; no independent clinical review.