## New treatments and opportunities for insurers

# Actuaries Institute.

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# Agenda

01 Obesity: background

Obesity: treatments

O3 Potential impacts: general population

O4 Potential impacts: life insurers

Opportunities for insurers



Background







# Obesity: Global Epidemic Insights – Impacts – Imperatives



Obesity: "excess or abnormal fat (adipose tissue) accumulation that presents a risk to health" WHO

## Body Mass Index (BMI) = Weight (kg) / Height<sup>2</sup> (m)

Body Size Category	BMI range (kg/m²)
Underweight	<18.5
Healthy (normal)	18.5 to 24.9
Overweight	≥25.0 to 29.9
Obese	≥30
Class I	30.0 to 34.9
Class II	35.0 to 39.9
Class III (severe)	≥40 kg/m2

Presented at the 2025 All Actuaries Summit



# Obesity: Prevalence

#### **Insights** – Impacts – Imperatives

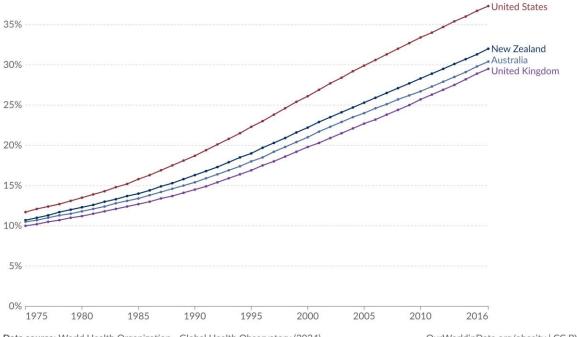




#### Obesity in adults, 1975 to 2016



Estimated prevalence of obesity<sup>1</sup>, based on general population surveys and statistical modeling. Obesity is a risk factor<sup>2</sup> for chronic complications, including cardiovascular disease, and premature death.



Data source: World Health Organization - Global Health Observatory (2024)

OurWorldinData.org/obesity | CC BY



## Obesity: Prevalence

#### **Insights** – Impacts – Imperatives





#### Distribution of BMI among persons aged 18 and over in Australia 2011-12 vs 2022



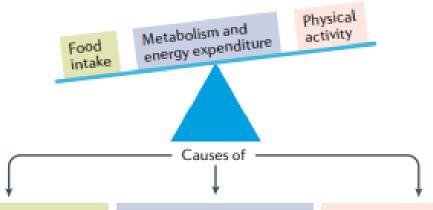


## Obesity: Risk factors and causes

**Insights** – Impacts – Imperatives







#### Overeating

- Socio-cultural
- Lack of knowledge
- Peer pressure
- Uncontrolled eating
- Hunger
- Emotional eating
- Snacking
- Lack of sleep
- Medications

#### Low energy expenditure

- Ageing
- Sex
- Genetics and epigenetics
- Neuroendocrine factors
- Prandial thermogenesis
- Brown fat
- Sarcopenia
- Microbiota
- Medications

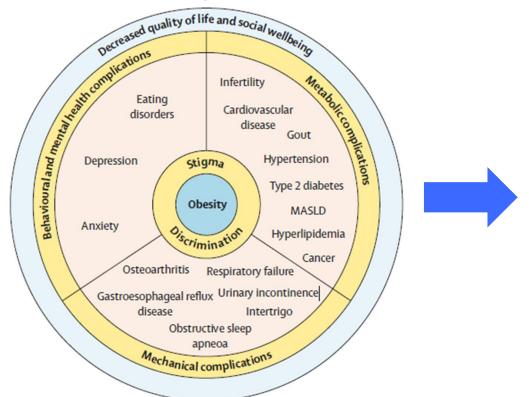
#### Physical inactivity

- Socio-cultural
- Physical challenges
- Chronic fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Joint pain
- Low fitness level
- Emotional barriers
- Workplace
- Medications



## Obesity: Impacts on Health

**Insights** – Impacts – Imperatives



Lingway I. et al: "Obesity in adults", Published Online, August 16, 2024, https://doi.org/10.1016 S0140-6736(24)01210-8

Cancer: 13 types of cancer

Ischaemic heat disease

Cerebrovascular disease: stroke

Sleep disorders: sleep apnoea

Diabetes type 2

Musculoskeletal disorders

Mental health disorders

Treatments



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# Treatments for obesity Insights – Impacts – Imperatives





# Available Treatments

Lifestyle & behavioural interventions



Pharmacotherapy



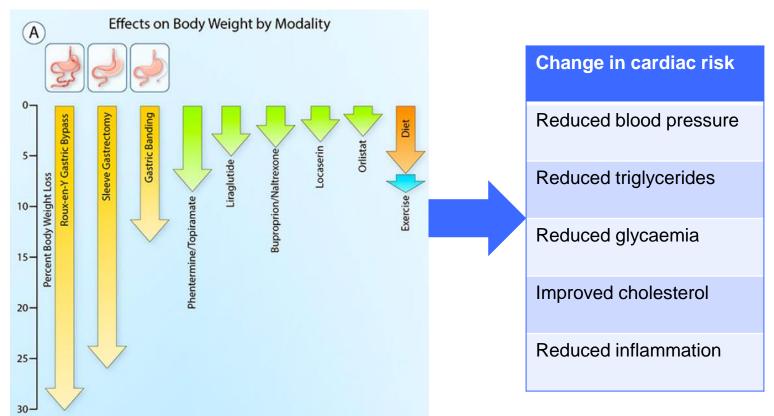
Bariatric surgery





## Impact of treatments on body weight and cardiac risk

Insights – Impacts – Imperatives



Heffron SP et al: "Treatment of obesity in mitigating metabolic risk", Circ Res. 2020 May 22; 126(11): 1646–1665

Presented at the 2025 All Actuaries Summit



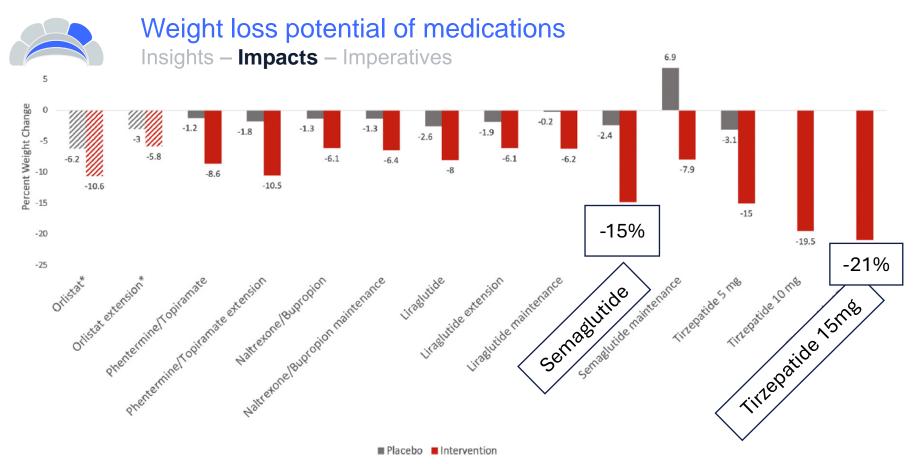
# New obesity treatments Insights – Impacts – Imperatives



#### Incretin hormones:

- GLP 1 (glucagon like peptide)
- GIP (glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide)

Compound	Brand Name	Class	Use	Dose	Route	Manufacturer
Semaglutide	Ozempic	GLP1ra	Diabetes type II	1mg/week	Sub Cutaneous	Novo Nordisk
Semaglutide	Wegovy	GLP1ra	Obesity	2.4mg/week	Sub Cutaneous	Novo Nordisk
Semaglutide	Rybelsus	GLP1ra	Diabetes type II	14mg/day	Oral	Novo Nordisk
Tirzepatide	Mounjaro	GLP1ra + GIPra	Diabetes type II	5mg/week	Sub Cutaneous	Eli Lilly
Tirzepatide	Zepbound	GLP1ra + GIPra	Obesity	15mg/week	Sub Cutaneous	Eli Lilly

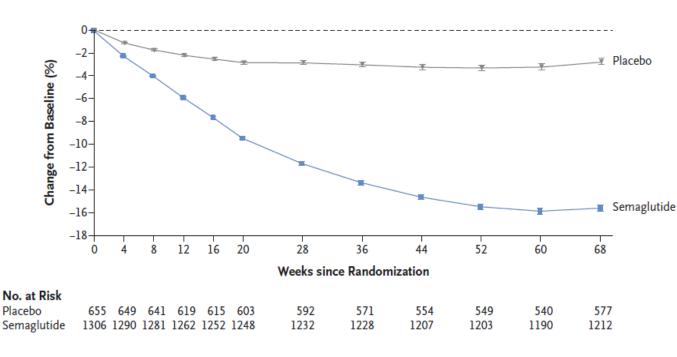


Mean percent (%) weight change reported in the main phase 3 and extension trials of the FDA approved anti-obesity medications. Orlistat: XENDOS trial (years 1 and 4). Phentermine/topiramate: CONQUER and SEQUEL trials. Naltrexone/bupropion: COR-I and COR-II trials. Liraglutide: SCALE Obesity, SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes Extension, and SCALE maintenance trials. Semaglutide: STEP 1 and STEP 4 trial.



## Semaglutide: Efficacy and safety – STEP-1 Trial

Insights – Impacts – Imperatives



Wilding J. et al: "Once-Weekly Semaglutide in Adults with Overweight or Obesity", N Engl J Med 2021;384:989-1002

# Common Side Effects Nausea Vomiting Diarrhoea Constipation

#### **Uncommon Serious**

**Pancreatitis** 

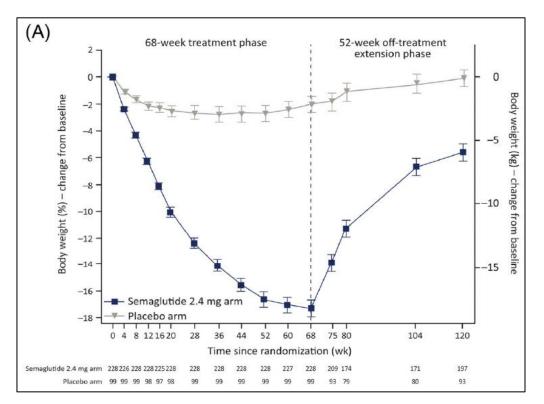
Gastric paresis

Bowel obstruction



## Semaglutide: Maintenance of weight loss and adherence

Insights – Impacts – Imperatives



From: Wilding J. et al: "Weight regain and cardiometabolic effects after withdrawal of semaglutide: The STEP 1 trial extension", Diabetes Obes Metab. 2022;24:1553–1564.

July 11, 2023



# Real-World Analysis of Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 Agonist (GLP-1a) Obesity Treatment One Year Cost-Effectiveness and Therapy Adherence

Joseph Leach, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Prime Therapeutics; Marci Chodroff, MD, Vice President, Medical Affairs, MagellanRx; Yang Qiu, MS; R. Scott Leslie, Ph.D.; Ben Urick, PharmD, Ph.D.; Landon Marshall, PharmD, Ph.D.; Patrick Gleason, PharmD

All authors are employees of Prime Therapeutics and MagellanRx No external funding was provided for this analysis

Introduction: Glucagon-like peptide-1 agonist (GLP-1a) products to treat type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) have been on the market since 2005. In 2014, the FDA approved the first GLP-1a product, liraglutide injection (Saxenda), for weight loss, followed by semaglutide injection (Wegovy) in 2021.

In the fall of 2022, social media influencers expounded on the weight loss attributes associated with GLP-1a therapies. This resulted in some employers experiencing a substantial increase in GLP-1a utilization and costs during the first half of 2023.

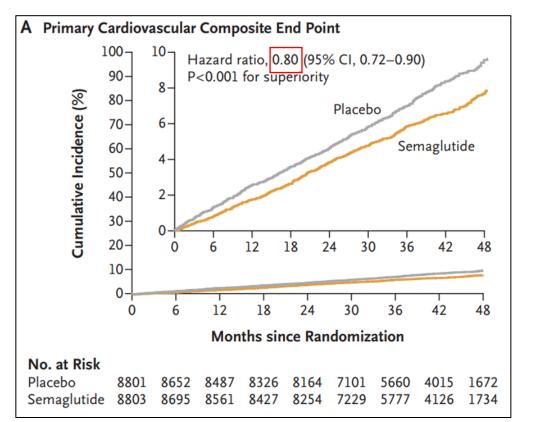
At an annual wholesale acquisition price \$11,500 to \$14,000, the Institute for Clinical Economic Review (ICER) cost-effectiveness analysis identified that GLP-1a weight loss therapies are two-fold over-priced to their expected value in weight loss-associated reduction in cardiovascular events and diabetes development avoidance over a lifetime. The clinical trial data used by ICER to create their cost-effectiveness findings of GLP-1a drugs reported a medication adherence

GLP-1a persistency and adherence to therapy was poor, with 32% of members remaining persistent at one year



## Semaglutide: Morbidity impacts – SELECT-Trial (RCT)

Insights – **Impacts** – Imperatives



20% reduction in risk of major cardiovascular outcomes in treatment group vs placebo



## Semaglutide: Morbidity impacts – observational data

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Figure 2. Risk of 13 Obesity-Associated Cancers Among Patients Receiving Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 Receptor Agonists (GLP-1RAs) vs Those Receiving Insulins

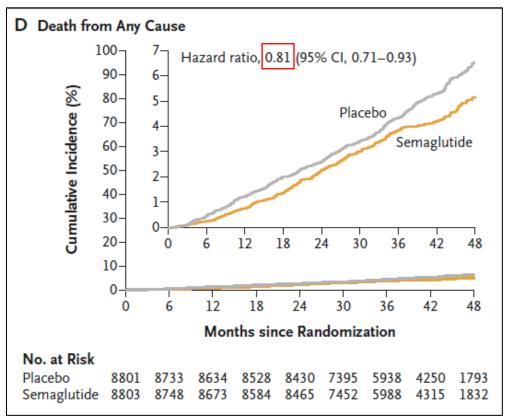
Outcome (N=1651452)	Group prescribed GLP-IRAs but not insulin, No (%) (n = 48 983)	Group prescribed insulin but not GLP-IRAs, No (%) (n=1044745)	HR (95% CI)	
Esophageal cancer (n = 48 437)	49 (0.10)	77 (0.16)	0.60 (0.42-0.86)	
Breast cancer (n = 13768)	427 (3.08)	379 (2.94)	1.07 (0.93-1.23)	-
Colorectal cancer (n = 48 443)	223 (0.46)	391 (0.81)	0.54 (0.46-0.64)	-
Endometrial cancer (n = 25750)	160 (0.62)	210 (0.82)	0.74 (0.60-0.91)	
Gallbladder cancer (n = 48 587)	<10 (<0.02)	19 (0.04)	0.35 (0.15-0.83)	
Stomach cancer (n = 48 449)	56 (0.12)	75 (0.16)	0.73 (0.51-1.03)	-
Kidney cancer (n=48322)	223 (0.46)	284 (0.59)	0.76 (0.64-0.91)	-
Hepatocellular carcinoma (n = 48 397)	79 (0.16)	167 (0.35)	0.47 (0.36-0.61)	
Ovarian cancer (n=25739)	51 (0.20)	94 (0.37)	0.52 (0.37-0.74)	
Pancreatic cancer (n = 48 490)	123 (0.25)	290 (0.60)	0.41 (0.33-0.50)	
Thyroid cancer (n = 48 527)	154 (0.32)	149 (0.31)	0.99 (0.79-1.24)	-
Meningioma (n=48518)	11 (0.02)	29 (0.06)	0.37 (0.18-0.74)	
Multiple myeloma (n=48527)	80 (0.17)	131 (0.27)	0.59 (0.44-0.77)	
				0.1 1
				HR (95% CI)

Observational data: promising reductions in risk for many obesity related cancers



## Semaglutide: Mortality impacts – SELECT-Trial (RCT)

Insights – Impacts – Imperatives



19% reduction in risk of death in treatment group vs placebo

Lincoff, M. et al. Semaglutide and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Obesity without Diabetes. NEJM Nov 2023

Potential impacts: general population





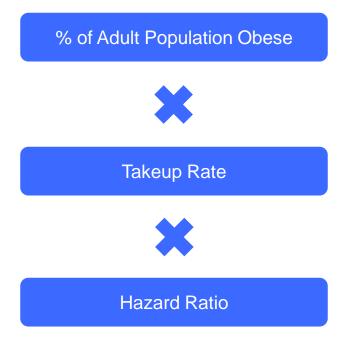








Insights – Impacts – Imperatives





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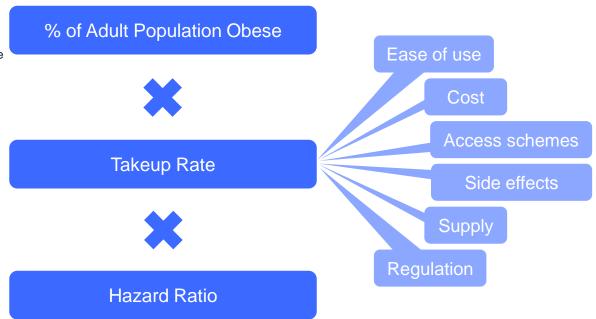


Insights – Impacts – Imperatives

34% overweight (25-30 BMI) 32% obese (>30 BMI)

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Lower bound: 10% Upper bound: 50%





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Insights – Impacts – Imperatives

34% overweight (25-30 BMI)
32% obese (>30 BMI)
Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

% of Adult Population Obese



Lower bound: 10%

Upper bound: 50%

Takeup Rate



81%

Source: SELECT-trial

Hazard Ratio

Lifestyle factors

Validity of Study Result

New Gen Improvement

Demographics



Insights – Impacts – Imperatives





34% overweight (25-30 BMI)
32% obese (>30 BMI)
Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

% of Adult Population Obese

32% obese

×

Lower bound: 10% Upper bound: 50%

Takeup Rate

30% takeup

×

81%

Source: SELECT-trial

**Hazard Ratio** 

19% mortality reduction



# Estimating Impact on Population Mortality Insights – Impacts – Imperatives





 $32\% \times 30\% = 10\%$  of population on obesity drugs

19% reduction in mortality for those on the drugs

 ${\sim}2\%\ reduction\ in\ population\ mortality$ 



## What about Morbidity?

Insights – Impacts – Imperatives







Cardiovascular (20% reduction in adverse cardiovascular events)<sup>1</sup>



Cancer (at least 13 different cancers are associated with obesity)



Osteoarthritis



Reward centre



Smoking (8.3% of Aus pop. are smokers)<sup>2</sup>



Vaping (19.8% have tried vaping)<sup>2</sup>



Alcohol (31% drink at risky levels)<sup>2</sup>



Illicit drugs (~16%)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Semaglutide and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Obesity without Diabetes, A. Michael Lincoff et al. 2023 <sup>2</sup>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2022-23

Potential impacts: life insurers





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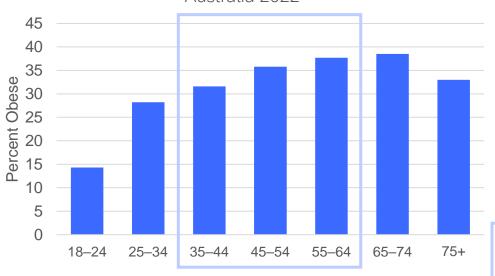


## How do insured populations differ?



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Data source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

They are also likely to be:



Wealthier



Underwritten for weight in the past



Better able to access the drugs



**Measure** risk factors in portfolio



Target solutions for at-risk groups

Opportunities for insurers







# Impact on the life insurance value chain Insights – Impacts – Imperatives







#### **Product Design**



#### **Pricing**



#### **Underwriting**



#### **Claims**

Scalable digital solutions to identify at-risk individuals, offer weight loss support programs and assist access to the drugs.

Due to improved mortality and morbidity, **substandard lives** will be favourably impacted.

Prevention activities **reduce portfolio claim rate** over time.

**Definition of obesity** may be adjusted to accommodate GLP-1 inhibitor use, past or future.

Reduced BMI for some individuals **expands insurable population.** 

Claims management will be better equipped with a new tool to manage weight and associated morbidity.



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# Thank you for your attention.

Dr. Matthew Paul, Jonathan Blunden