

Call for evidence: Weight loss medication in London

August 2025

The London Assembly Health Committee has launched an investigation into weight loss medication in London. The investigation will examine the following:

- To explore the increasing demand for, and supply of, weight loss medicines in London
- To investigate the availability and take-up of weight loss medicines through the NHS in London
- To investigate how and on what scale Londoners are accessing weight loss medicines privately, and the regulatory framework for accessing them in this way
- To understand the benefits and risks for Londoners in accessing weight loss medicines.

The Committee would like to invite those who have knowledge of weight loss medication in London to provide written evidence to the Committee. The information you provide will help to inform the work of the Committee and influence its recommendations.

The Committee is keen to hear from health professionals, public health agencies, local community services, academics, charities, advocacy groups and anyone else with an interest or expertise in weight loss medication in London. It is also interested in hearing from those with lived experience of using weight loss medication.

Background

- There are a number of weight loss medications (GLP-1 medicines) licensed for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and/or weight management, including Wegovy, Ozempic and Mounjaro. Weight loss medicines are classified as prescription-only medicines (POMs). This means they can only be supplied when they have been prescribed by an appropriate practitioner such as a doctor, a nurse, independent prescriber or a pharmacist.¹
- Weight loss medicines are gradually becoming available on the NHS. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) approved Wegovy on 4 September 2023 and Mounjaro on 23 December 2024.² Mounjaro is now being rolled out through specialist weight management services on the NHS,³ and from 23 June 2025 through GPs to those with the highest need.⁴
- Weight loss medicines are readily available to obtain privately. Examples of companies offering weight loss drugs include Numan, Superdrug Online Doctor and Boots Online Doctor. Costs for these medicines can vary and depend on the regularity and dosage that is prescribed. As one example, for an injectable pen with four pre-filled doses (one-month's supply), Asda Online Doctor currently offers Mounjaro starting from £128.98, and Wegovy starting from £118.98.⁵

¹ General Pharmaceutical Council [Weight loss medications- FAQ](#)

² NHS, [Wegovy \(Semaglutide\) and Mounjaro \(Tirzepatide\)](#)

³ NHS England, [Weight management injections](#)

⁴ Sky News, [GPs can prescribe weight loss jabs on the NHS from today - but strict eligibility criteria in place](#) | UK News, 23 June 2025

⁵ Asda Online Pharmacy, [Weight loss](#)

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- There are proven benefits associated with taking weight loss medicines. A study in 2023 found that semaglutide (sold in the UK under the brand name Wegovy) can lead to a reduction of body weight by 15 per cent.⁶ Another study in 2021 found that semaglutide lowers the risk of death from heart and circulatory disease, heart attack or stroke.⁷
- A number of bodies have raised concerns, including the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), that providers are setting inappropriate internal prescribing targets for weight loss medication. They have also raised concerns that some providers are failing to identify patients for whom GLP-1 medicines are inappropriate.⁸

How to respond

The Committee welcomes any evidence relevant to the following questions:

1. What are the benefits and risks of weight loss medicines?
2. What plans do the NHS in London have to roll out weight loss medicines in the coming years, and will this be enough to meet demand?

3. On what scale are Londoners accessing weight loss medicines through private suppliers?
4. Are Londoners who are not medically eligible acquiring weight loss medicines, and if so, what are the risks of them doing this?
5. If you have taken them, what are your experiences of taking weight loss medication?

Written submissions should be sent to scrutiny@london.gov.uk with 'Health Committee call for evidence' as the subject line. The deadline is **Friday 19 September 2025**. You do not need to answer all questions - please answer only those that are most relevant to you or your organisation.

What we will do with the responses

The submissions will be used to inform the London Assembly Health Committee's investigation. Responses may be used and quoted in a report or output from the Committee.

In the large majority of circumstances we will publish written submissions and the names of the individuals or organisations that submitted them online. This is to ensure transparency about what evidence the Committee has received. Exceptions to this are usually applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If there is a reason that you would like your evidence not to be published with your name (submitted anonymously) or not to be published at all (submitted confidentially), please let us know and the

⁶ Wilding et al, [Once-Weekly Semaglutide in Adults with Overweight or Obesity](#), 10 February 2021.

⁷ Lincoff et al, [Semaglutide and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Obesity without Diabetes](#), 11 November 2023

⁸ House of Commons Library, [Weight loss medicines in England](#), 10 April 2025

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Committee will consider the request. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required to release non-personally identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

About the Health Committee

The London Assembly consists of 25 elected members, who publicly examine the policies and programmes of the Mayor of London and relevant agencies through committee meetings, plenary sessions, site visits and investigations.

The Health Committee carries out investigations into health and wellbeing issues in London. It scrutinises the work of the Mayor on health issues, and health issues and policy in London more broadly. It routinely publishes findings and recommendations from its investigations.

The members of the committee are:

- Emma Best AM (Chairman)
- Krupesh Hirani (Deputy Chair)
- Marina Ahmad AM
- Andrew Boff AM
- Alex Wilson AM

Contact us

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