



# BCAM

British College of Aesthetic Medicine

## BCAM | Vet It Before You Get It

### Know Which GLP-1 You're Getting

Your safety starts before the first prescription.

As part of BCAM's patient safety campaign, we urge consumers to be well informed before starting GLP-1 weight-loss medication. You have every right to know exactly what medicine you are being prescribed, why it's appropriate for you, and that it is licensed, genuine, and supplied through a regulated UK pharmacy.

#### **Before you start, always ask:**

- Am I being medically screened first (including medical history, current medicines, and suitability checks)?
- Will I have a consultation (not just a form) before anything is prescribed?
- Which exact medicine (brand + active ingredient) am I being prescribed?
- Is it licensed in the UK for weight management, or is it being offered off-label?
- Which UK-registered pharmacy will dispense it, and how will it be delivered/stored?
- What follow-up and safety monitoring is included (side effects, dose escalation, stopping rules)?

If the service cannot explain the above clearly, or avoids a real consultation, do not proceed.

### UK-licensed GLP-1 medicines for weight management (injection)

According to current UK authoritative sources (e.g. NHS/NICE/MHRA), weight management injections available on prescription in the UK include:

- Mounjaro® (tirzepatide)

- Wegovy® (semaglutide)
- Saxenda® (liraglutide)

These medicines are licensed for use alongside dietary change and increased physical activity, and should be prescribed with appropriate clinical oversight.

## You may also see other GLP-1 brand names

You may see names such as Ozempic® or Rybelsus® (semaglutide). These are licensed in the UK for type 2 diabetes and are not licensed for weight management in the same way as Wegovy.

If you are offered a medicine not on the licensed weight-management list:

- Ask for an explanation: why is it being used and is it licensed for your indication?
- Ask to see the box/leaflet and dispensing information.
- Consider not proceeding until you are fully satisfied.

## How to spot counterfeit, fake or unlicensed GLP-1 products

### Authenticity

- To check that your Mounjaro is legitimate go to the Eli Lilly website <https://www.lilly.com/medicines/safety/counterfeit>
- To check that your Wegovy is legitimate go the Novo Nordisk website <https://www.novonordisk.co.uk/about/counterfeit-product-warning.html>
- Check for a batch number and expiry date on the box/pen that look professionally printed and consistent.
- Look for sealed, tamper-evident packaging, clear labelling, and a patient information leaflet.
- The medicine name, dose strength, batch number and expiry date should be consistent across packaging and documentation.

### Supply Chain

- Licensed GLP-1 medicines should be supplied via a regulated UK pharmacy. Check your pharmacy is registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/>
- Delivery should follow cold-chain requirements where applicable (with clear storage instructions).

## **Pricing Warning**

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Licensed medicines are priced accordingly. Deep discounts, “too cheap” offers, or payment via informal channels can indicate counterfeit or unregulated supply.

## **Immediate Red Flags**

- No proper screening or consultation before prescribing
- “No prescription needed”, “imported”, “research peptide”, “compounded” or “made-to-order” claims
- Sales via social media, messaging apps, salons, or non-pharmacy websites
- No clear UK pharmacy details, no follow-up care, or unclear storage instructions

## **BCAM Guidance**

If it's not licensed, don't use it.

If you are unsure, pause and ask questions. If answers aren't clear, walk away.

BCAM has expanded Vet It Before You Get It to include GLP-1 medication safety, helping consumers understand what to ask, what to expect from reputable services, and how to spot warning signs.