



## Preferred Drug List

### NEW DRUG REVIEW

**Proprietary Name:** Victoza®

**Common Name:** Liraglutide

**PDL Category:** Diabetic- Non Insulin Injectables

#### Comparable Products

Byetta®

#### Preferred Drug List Status

Non-Preferred with Conditions

#### Summary

**Indications and Usage:** Indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. It is not recommended as an initial therapy for patients who have not been able to control their diabetes with diet and exercise alone.<sup>1</sup>

**Mechanism of Action:** Increases intracellular cyclic AMP (cAMP) which stimulates the release of insulin in the presence of elevated glucose concentrations. Also decreases glucagon secretion and inhibits appetite.<sup>1</sup>

**Dosage Forms:** Injection (prefilled, multi-dose pen): 6mg/ml<sup>1</sup>

**Recommended Dosage:** Initiate at 0.6mg once daily for one week. This dose is intended to reduce gastrointestinal symptoms during initial titration and is not effective for glycemic control. After one week, increase the dose to 1.2mg once daily. If the 1.2mg dose does not result in acceptable glycemic control, the dose can be increased to 1.8mg once daily.<sup>1</sup>

**Common Adverse Drug Reactions:** Headache, nausea, diarrhea.<sup>1</sup>

**Contraindications:** Do not use in patients with a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma or in patients with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type.<sup>1</sup>

**Manufacturer:** Novo Nordisk, Inc.

**Analysis:** Victoza® is a once daily glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist given by subcutaneous injection for the treatment of patients with type 2 diabetes. It may be used alone or in combination with oral antidiabetic drugs. It is not indicated as first-line therapy and has not been studied for use with insulin. Victoza® lowers A1C without an increased risk of hypoglycemia or weight gain. FDA approval was based on several trials, including dosing as monotherapy and in combination with other agents. Mean A1C reduction for Victoza® when used in combination therapy was approximately 1.1% compared to 0.8% with Byetta®. When used as monotherapy, Victoza® reduced A1C by 1.1% for the 1.8mg dose and 0.8% for the 1.2mg dose. Weight loss is similar with Victoza® and Byetta®. GLP-1 agonists are not considered first line therapy in current guidelines for the treatment of diabetes. Preferred alternatives appear on the Preferred Drug List, which have similar clinical efficacy and are more cost effective. Therefore, it is recommended that Victoza® be added to the Preferred Drug List as a non-preferred drug with conditions.

**IME Recommendation:**  Preferred Drug  Recommended Drug  
 Non-Preferred Drug  Non-Recommended Drug  
 Non-Preferred Drug with Conditions

1. Victoza® [package insert]. Princeton, NJ: Novo Nordisk, Inc.; 2010.