



Comparison Chart: FDA-approved Weight Loss Drugs

Based on the American Diabetes Association (ADA)

[Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2017](#)

Drug name	Route	1-yr average weight loss ¹	Lost ≥5% baseline weight after 1 yr	Adverse effects (common ² , serious)		Price ³
Orlistat (Alli, Xenical)	PO	2.5-3.4 kg (5.5-7.5 lbs)	35-73% of patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdominal pain or discomfort Oily spotting in stool, fat-soluble vitamin malabsorption, fecal urgency Malabsorption of other meds including cyclosporine, thyroid hormone, anti-seizure meds Increased INR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liver failure Acute kidney injury (oxalate nephropathy) 	\$189 for 30-day supply of Xenical
Lorcaserin (Belviq)	PO	3.2 kg (7 lbs)	38-48% of patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypoglycemia Headache Fatigue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serotonin syndrome NMS-like reactions Suicidal ideation Valvular heart disease Bradycardia 	\$140
Phentermine/topiramate (Qsymia)	PO	6.7-8.9 kg (14.7-19.6 lbs)	45-70% of patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paresthesias Dry mouth Constipation Headache 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teratogenicity (topiramate) 	\$199
Naltrexone/bupropion (Contrave)	PO	2.0-4.1 kg (4.4-9.0 lbs)	36-57% of patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nausea/vomiting Constipation Headache 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depression Mania Seizures 	\$64
Liraglutide (Saxenda)	SubQ	5.8 kg (12.8 lbs)	51-73% of patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypoglycemia Nausea/vomiting Diarrhea or constipation Headache 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pancreatitis Thyroid cancer (animal studies) Acute renal failure 	\$1,187

Adapted from [7. Obesity Management for the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes. Diabetes Care. 2017;40\(Suppl 1\):S57-S63.](#)

[1] Relative to placebo.

[2] 5% incidence.

[3] Fair Price for 30-day supply from [Healthcare Bluebook](#), accessed 10/9/2017, zip code 10010.