

# Counterfeit Obesity Drugs & What Physicians Need to Know

Overview, guidance and key safety considerations for GLP-1 medications

## Overview

The high demand for GLP-1 receptor agonists, fueled by their effectiveness in weight management and social media trends, has led to a rise in counterfeit or improperly compounded versions across the U.S.

Counterfeit or improperly compounded products may contain incorrect active ingredients, harmful fillers or contaminants, which can cause adverse reactions, hospitalizations or ineffective treatment, and can undermine patient trust in legitimate obesity care.



## Key Things to Be Aware Of

Encourage patients to be cautious if they:

- Obtain medication without a prescription or from non-licensed sources
- See prices that are lower than typical
- Receive products without proper labeling, lot numbers or manufacturer details
- Are offered “generic semaglutide” (there is no approved generic GLP-1)

Guidance Area	Key Actions
Verify Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prescribe only FDA-approved products dispensed by state-licensed pharmacies</li> <li>- Confirm National Drug Code (NDC) and lot numbers on packaging</li> <li>- Counsel patients on safe purchasing through verified pharmacies</li> </ul>
Report Suspected Counterfeits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submit reports to FDA MedWatch</li> <li>- Encourage patients to report unusual side effects</li> </ul>
Educate Patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emphasize that weight loss medications require prescriptions and medical supervision</li> <li>- Discuss the risks of compounded or unverified products</li> </ul>