AffirmedRx Port of Seattle

Direct Access FAQs



What is AffirmedRx Direct Access?

Direct Access is a new AffirmedRx program for GLP-1 medications prescribed for weight loss, such as Wegovy and Zepbound. Beginning January 1, 2027, these medications move to **Direct Access**. Your medication will remain available, the Port of Seattle will contribute $100 toward each monthly prescription, and you pay the remaining cost.

Why is the Port making this change?

Over the last few years, the use and cost of GLP-1 medications have increased significantly and now account for ~25% of total pharmacy spending. **Direct Access** allows the Port to keep supporting access to these medications while being resource conscious, helping keep coverage affordable and sustainable.

Does this affect GLP-1 medications I take for another condition?

No. GLP-1 medications prescribed for other covered medical conditions, such as type 2 diabetes, continue to be covered under the Port's regular pharmacy benefit, subject to applicable coverage requirements.

What do I need to do after January 1, 2027?

1. Keep filling your prescription at your current pharmacy.
2. Present your AffirmedRx prescription benefit card. The Port's $100 contribution is applied automatically.
3. Pay the remaining medication cost, along with any applicable dispensing or shipping fees.

How much will I pay?

You will pay the cost of your medication after the Port's $100 contribution, plus any dispensing or shipping fees. The amount varies by medication and may be higher than what you pay today. A Patient Care Advocate (PCA) can help you understand your anticipated cost before this change takes effect.

Will my payments count toward my deductible or out-of-pocket maximum?

- For Deductible member, your payments will not count toward your deductible or out-of-pocket maximum. Medications provided through Direct Access are classified as non-essential health benefits and are subject to a different cost-sharing arrangement.
- For High-Deductible member, the $100 contribution will begin after you meet your deductible. Your payments will count towards your deductible and out-of-pocket maximum, based on IRS guidelines for qualified HDHP arrangements.

Can I use my HSA or FSA?

Yes. You may use eligible pre-tax HSA or FSA funds to pay your portion of the cost, subject to applicable account rules. Check with your HSA or FSA administrator if you are unsure whether a purchase qualifies. If you choose these options, please enroll in these programs during Open Enrollment between November 2-20, 2026.

Will I still need prior authorization?

Prior authorization requirements may continue to apply to your prescription. A PCA or Member Services representative can confirm what applies to your medication.

What if the new cost is a concern for me?

AffirmedRx PCAs can review your coverage, explain your anticipated costs, and help you explore other available options. A PCA may call you before January 1, 2027, to offer support. You can also talk with your provider about treatment options.

Getting Help

- **Medication or treatment questions:** Contact your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- **Pharmacy benefit questions:** AffirmedRx Member Services, available 24/7 at 833-844-3102.
- **Patient Care Advocate support**: PCA@affirmedrx.com
- **Additional information, visit:** members.affirmedrx.com