

iCARDIO Alliance Global Implementation Guidelines for the Management of Obesity 2025 Focus on Prevention and Treatment of Cardiometabolic Disease

Stefan D. Anker (*Germany*), Linong Ji (*China*), Tammy Kindel (*USA*), Andrew J.S. Coats (*Australia*), Dike Ojji (*Nigeria*), Adriana Puente Barragán (*Mexico*), Peter Rossing (*Denmark*), Shelley Zieroth (*Canada*), Shaaf Ahmad (*USA*), Shariq Usman (*USA*), Geeta Appannah (*Malaysia*), Alison L. Bailey (*USA*), Ahmed Bennis (*Morocco*), Andrea Brandao (*Brazil*), Javed Butler (*USA*), Melanie J. Davies (*UK*), Lubomira Fabryova (*Slovakia*), Yuan-Lin Guo (*China*), Hidetaka Itoh (*Japan*), Uday M. Jadhav (*India*), Carel W. Le Roux (*UK*), Pasquale Perrone-Filardi (*Italy*), Fausto J. Pinto (*Portugal*), Julio Rosenstock (*USA*), Banshi Saboo (*India*), Hani Sabbour (*UAE*), Mangesh Tiwaskar (*India*), Karol E. Watson (*USA*), Kwang Wei Tham (*Singapore*), Fernando Stuardo Wyss (*Guatemala*), Walter P. Abhayaratna (*Australia*), William T. Abraham (*USA*), Wael Al Mahmeed (*UAE*), Alessia Argiro (*Italy*), John J. Atherton (*Australia*), Danielle Belardo (*USA*), Raquel Campuzano (*Spain*), Nandini Chatterjee (*India*), Marc-André Cornier (*USA*), Sarah Davies (*UK*), Clemencia de Rueda Panadero (*Spain*), Anastase Dzudie (*Cameroon*), Ty J. Gluckman (*USA*), Muhammad Shahzeb Khan (*USA*), Kamlesh Khunti (*UK*), Yuri Lopatin (*Russia*), Zhiyi Ma (*China*), Okechukwu S. Ogah (*Nigeria*), Abraham Oomman (*India*), Emilio Peralta (*Honduras*), Ping Li (*China*), Paul Poirier (*Canada*), Julie Redfern (*Australia*), Giuseppe M.C. Rosano (*Italy*), Amit Saraf (*India*), Sameh haheen (*Egypt*), Subodh Verma (*Canada*), Stephan von Haehling (*Germany*), Martha Gulati (*USA*), Naveed Sattar (*UK*), Jose Luis Zamorano (*Spain*)

Corresponding Author: Stefan D. Anker, MD PhD, Department of Cardiology (CVK), Charité Campus CVK, Augustenburger Platz 1, D-13353 Berlin, Germany. E-mail: s.anker@cachexia.de

©The Author(s), 2025
Licensee PAGEPress, Italy

Supplementary Table. FDA-approved dosages for weight loss medications.

Drug	FDA-Approved Dosage
Liraglutide	Initiate at 0.6 mg subcutaneously daily; increase by 0.6 mg weekly to a maintenance dose of 3.0 mg daily (for weight loss).
Semaglutide	Initiate at 0.25 mg subcutaneously once weekly for 4 weeks; increase every 4 weeks to 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg; maintenance at 2.4 mg once weekly (or 1.7 mg once weekly, if not tolerated).
Tirzepatide	Initiate at 2.5 mg subcutaneously once weekly for 4 weeks; increase by 2.5 mg every ≥4 weeks to 5 mg, 7.5 mg, 10 mg, 12.5 mg, and 15 mg; maintenance at 5–15 mg once weekly.
Orlistat	120 mg orally three times daily with each fat-containing meal (for weight loss).
Phentermine/Topiramate ER	Start at 3.75 mg/23 mg orally once daily; titrate to 7.5 mg/46 mg or up to 15 mg/92 mg once daily (for weight loss).
Naltrexone/Bupropion	32 mg naltrexone/360 mg bupropion orally daily (divided into two doses) (for weight loss).
Lisdexamfetamine	30–70 mg orally once daily (FDA-approved for binge eating disorder, not specifically for obesity).

References for the supplementary table

Liraglutide related

- Pi-Sunyer X, Astrup A, Fujioka K, et al. A Randomized, controlled trial of 3.0 mg of liraglutide in weight management. *N Engl J Med* 373:11-22. doi: [10.1056/NEJMoa1411892](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1411892)
- Wadden TA, Hollander P, Klein S, et al. Weight maintenance and additional weight loss with liraglutide after low-calorie-diet-induced weight loss: the SCALE Maintenance randomized study. *Int J Obes (Lond)* 2013;37:1443-51. doi: [10.1038/ijo.2013.120](https://doi.org/10.1038/ijo.2013.120)
- Davies MJ, Bergenstal R, Bode B, et al. Efficacy of liraglutide for weight loss among patients with type 2 diabetes: The SCALE diabetes randomized clinical trial. *JAMA* 2015;314:687-99. doi: [10.1001/jama.2015.9676](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2015.9676)
- Blackman A, Foster GD, Zammit G, et al. Effect of liraglutide 3.0 mg in individuals with obesity and moderate or severe obstructive sleep apnea: the SCALE Sleep Apnea randomized clinical trial. *Int J Obes (Lond)* 2016;40:1310-9. doi: [10.1038/ijo.2016.52](https://doi.org/10.1038/ijo.2016.52)
- le Roux CW, Astrup A, Fujioka K, et al. 3 years of liraglutide versus placebo for type 2 diabetes risk reduction and weight management in individuals with prediabetes: a randomised, double-blind trial. *Lancet* 2017;389:1399-409. doi: [10.1016/s0140-6736\(17\)30069-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(17)30069-7)

Semaglutide related

6. Wilding JPH, Batterham RL, Calanna S, et al. Once-weekly semaglutide in adults with overweight or obesity. *N Engl J Med* 2021;384:989-1002. doi: [10.1056/NEJMoa2032183](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2032183)
7. Davies M, Færch L, Jeppesen OK, et al. Semaglutide 2·4 mg once a week in adults with overweight or obesity, and type 2 diabetes (STEP 2): a randomised, double-blind, double-dummy, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. *Lancet* 2021;397:971-84. doi: [10.1016/s0140-6736\(21\)00213-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(21)00213-0)
8. Wadden TA, Bailey TS, Billings LK, et al. Effect of subcutaneous semaglutide vs placebo as an adjunct to intensive behavioral therapy on body weight in adults with overweight or obesity: The STEP 3 randomized clinical trial. *JAMA* 2021;325:1403-13. doi: [10.1001/jama.2021.1831](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2021.1831)
9. Rubino D, Abrahamsson N, Davies M, et al. Effect of continued weekly subcutaneous semaglutide vs placebo on weight loss maintenance in adults with overweight or obesity: The STEP 4 randomized clinical trial. *JAMA* 2021;325:1414-25. doi: [10.1001/jama.2021.3224](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2021.3224)
10. Garvey WT, Batterham RL, Bhatta M, et al. Two-year effects of semaglutide in adults with overweight or obesity: the STEP 5 trial. *Nat Med* 2022;28:2083-91. doi: [10.1038/s41591-022-02026-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-02026-4)
11. Rubino DM, Greenway FL, Khalid U, et al. Effect of weekly subcutaneous semaglutide vs daily liraglutide on body weight in adults with overweight or obesity without diabetes: The STEP 8 randomized clinical trial. *JAMA* 2022;327:138-50. doi: [10.1001/jama.2021.23619](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2021.23619)
12. Bliddal H, Bays H, Czernichow S, et al. Once-weekly semaglutide in persons with obesity and knee osteoarthritis. *N Engl J Med* 2024;391:1573-83. doi: [10.1056/NEJMoa2403664](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2403664)
13. ClinicalTrials.gov. A research study to see how semaglutide helps people with excess weight, lose weight (STEP UP). Updated December 12, 2024. Accessed January 17, 2025. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT05646706>
14. Kosiborod MN, Abildstrøm SZ, Borlaug BA, et al. Semaglutide in patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction and obesity. *N Engl J Med* 2023;389:1069-84. doi: [10.1056/NEJMoa2306963](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2306963)
15. Kosiborod MN, Petrie MC, Borlaug BA, et al. Semaglutide in patients with obesity-related heart failure and type 2 diabetes. *N Engl J Med* 2024;390:1394-407. doi: [10.1056/NEJMoa2313917](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2313917)

Tirzepatide related

16. Jastreboff AM, Aronne LJ, Ahmad NN, et al. Tirzepatide once weekly for the treatment of obesity. *N Engl J Med* 2022;387:205-16. doi: [10.1056/NEJMoa2206038](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2206038)
17. Garvey WT, Frias JP, Jastreboff AM, et al. Tirzepatide once weekly for the treatment of obesity in people with type 2 diabetes (SURMOUNT-2): a double-blind, randomised, multicentre, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. *Lancet* 2023;402:613-26. doi: [10.1016/s0140-6736\(23\)01200-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(23)01200-x)
18. Wadden TA, Chao AM, Machineni S, et al. Tirzepatide after intensive lifestyle intervention in adults with overweight or obesity: the SURMOUNT-3 phase 3 trial. *Nat Med* 2023;29:2909-18. doi: [10.1038/s41591-023-02597-w](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-023-02597-w)
19. Aronne LJ, Sattar N, Horn DB, et al. Continued treatment with tirzepatide for maintenance of weight reduction in adults with obesity: The SURMOUNT-4 randomized clinical trial. *JAMA* 2024;331:38-48. doi: [10.1001/jama.2023.24945](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2023.24945)
20. Aronne LJ, Horn DB, le Roux CW, et al. Tirzepatide as compared with semaglutide for the treatment of obesity. *N Engl J Med* 2025;393:26-36. doi: [10.1056/NEJMoa2416394](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2416394)
21. Malhotra A, Grunstein Ronald R, Fietze I, et al. Tirzepatide for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea and obesity. *N Engl J Med* 2024;391:1193-205. doi: [10.1056/NEJMoa2404881](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2404881)

Orlistat related

22. Sjöström L, Rissanen A, Andersen T, et al. Randomised placebo-controlled trial of orlistat for weight loss and prevention of weight regain in obese patients. European Multicentre Orlistat Study Group. Lancet 1998;352:167-72. doi: [10.1016/s0140-6736\(97\)11509-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(97)11509-4)
23. Zavoral JH. Treatment with orlistat reduces cardiovascular risk in obese patients. J Hypertens 1998;16:2013-7. doi: [10.1097/00004872-199816121-00024](https://doi.org/10.1097/00004872-199816121-00024)
24. Allison DB, Gadde KM, Garvey WT, et al. Controlled-release phentermine/topiramate in severely obese adults: a randomized controlled trial (EQUIP). Obesity (Silver Spring) 2012;20:330-42. doi: [10.1038/oby.2011.330COR](https://doi.org/10.1038/oby.2011.330COR)

Naltrexone / Bupropion related

25. Greenway FL, Fujioka K, Plodkowski RA, et al. Effect of naltrexone plus bupropion on weight loss in overweight and obese adults (COR-I): a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. Lancet 2010;376:595-605. doi: [10.1016/s0140-6736\(10\)60888-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(10)60888-4)
26. Apovian CM, Aronne L, Rubino D, et al. A randomized, phase 3 trial of naltrexone SR/bupropion SR on weight and obesity-related risk factors (COR-II). Obesity (Silver Spring) 2013;21:935-43. doi: [10.1002/oby.20309](https://doi.org/10.1002/oby.20309)
27. Hollander P, Gupta AK, Plodkowski R, et al. Effects of naltrexone sustained-release/bupropion sustained-release combination therapy on body weight and glycemic parameters in overweight and obese patients with type 2 diabetes. Diabetes Care 2013;36:4022-9. doi: [10.2337/dc13-0234](https://doi.org/10.2337/dc13-0234)
28. Wadden TA, Foreyt JP, Foster GD, et al. Weight loss with naltrexone SR/bupropion SR combination therapy as an adjunct to behavior modification: the COR-BMOD trial. Obesity (Silver Spring) 2011;19:110-20. doi: [10.1038/oby.2010.147](https://doi.org/10.1038/oby.2010.147)