

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a nurse practitioner practicing diabetes management in a rural setting in Iowa. I request the preferred drug list be re-evaluated to include Victoza as a preferred agent. The GLP-1 agonist class provides a unique approach to diabetes management that is superior to other GLP-1 agonist agents (Byetta, Bydureon, Tanzeum, etc.). Victoza benefits are numerous including: efficiency in lowering A1c, weight loss, and is indicated to reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (heart attack, stroke, or cardiovascular death) in adults with type 2 diabetes and established cardiovascular disease (1).

Cardiovascular disease is a common co-morbid condition and is the leading cause of mortality in patients with diabetes (2). Additionally, obesity and other co-morbid conditions directly related to diabetes, such as hypertension and dyslipidemia, are prevalent in this patient population and further increase cardiovascular disease risk (3). The addition of Victoza to most diabetes mellitus type 2 medication regimens is beneficial and should be considered standard of care.

1. Victoza [package insert]. Plainsboro, NJ: Novo Nordisk Inc; August 2017.
2. Low Wang CC, Hess CN, Hiatt WR, Godfine AB. Clinical Update: cardiovascular disease in diabetes mellitus. Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and heart failure in type 2 diabetes mellitus-mechanisms, management, and clinical considerations. *Circulation*. 2016; 133:2459-2502.
3. World Heart Federation. Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors. Available at: [www.world-heart-federation.org/cardiovascular-health/cardiovascular-disease-risk-factors/diabetes/](http://www.world-heart-federation.org/cardiovascular-health/cardiovascular-disease-risk-factors/diabetes/). Accessed March 16, 2018.

Please seriously consider making Victoza a preferred agent for Iowa Medicaid patients.

Thank you for your time. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.