

2026
Vol. 38
No. 2



*The Bulletin of
Medicaid Drug
Utilization Review
in Iowa*

DUR Commission Members

Melissa Klotz, PharmD, Chairperson ♦ Jason Kruse, DO, Vice-Chairperson
♦ Holly Randleman, PharmD ♦ Jennifer Johnson, PharmD ♦ Bryon Schaeffer, MD
Charles Wadle, DO ♦ Caitlin Reinking, PharmD ♦ Jordan Thoman, PharmD ♦ Abby Cate, PharmD

DUR Professional Staff

Pamela Smith, RPh, DUR Project Coordinator

Optimizing SGLT2 Inhibitor Use in Chronic Kidney Disease

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) affects millions of adults and is associated with risks of kidney failure, cardiovascular disease, and hospitalization. Sodium glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitors have emerged as foundational therapy in CKD management, with strong evidence demonstrating renal and cardiovascular protection independent of glycemic control. Current guidelines now recommend SGLT2 inhibitors as first-line therapy in eligible patients with CKD at risk of progression, with or without diabetes.

Guideline Recommendations at a Glance

[Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes \(KDIGO\) 2024 Clinical Practice Guideline](#)

- Recommend initiating an SGLT2 inhibitor in adults with CKD and albuminuria, with or without diabetes
- Initiate with an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) ≥ 20 mL/min/1.73 m²
- Continue even if eGFR falls below 20 mL/min/1.73 m²

[American Diabetes Association \(ADA\) Standards of Care in Diabetes – 2026](#)

[Chronic Kidney Disease and Risk Management](#)

- Recommend initiating an SGLT2 inhibitor with demonstrated benefit in adults with type 2 diabetes (T2D) with CKD and albuminuria (irrespective of A1C)
- Initiate at an eGFR ≥ 20 mL/min/1.73 m²
- Continue until dialysis or transplant

SGLT2 Inhibitors with Kidney Outcome Data (preferred drugs are bolded and italicized)

- Canagliflozin (Invokana)
- Dapagliflozin (***Farxiga***)
- Empagliflozin (***Jardiance***)

Notes

- Glucose-lowering effect is minimal at an eGFR < 45 mL/min/1.73 m²
- SGLT2 inhibitors should not be used in type 1 diabetes (T1D)
- Preferred agents (as of [January 1, 2026 PDL](#)) are shown in bold and italicized text
- No prior authorization is required for preferred agents

The DUR Commission recently identified members with a diagnosis of CKD without an SGLT2 inhibitor in their pharmacy claims. Despite robust evidence demonstrating renal protection and guideline directed recommendations for use, data suggests that uptake with these agents in the Iowa Medicaid population has been slow. In an effort to share this information with prescribers, DUR letters were sent recommending the addition of an SGLT2 inhibitor when appropriate and outlining the [Preferred Drug List](#) (PDL) status of SGLT2 agents.

Below is a list of all single agent SGLT2 inhibitors and their FDA-approved indications.

Single Agent SGLT2 Inhibitors and their FDA-Approved Indications

(Preferred drugs, as of January 1, 2026, are bolded and italicized)

Medication	FDA-Approved Indications
Dapagliflozin (<i>Farxiga</i>)	• Type 2 diabetes (adults and children ≥ age 10) • Heart failure (regardless of ejection fraction) • CKD with or without diabetes
Empagliflozin (<i>Jardiance</i>)	• Type 2 diabetes (adults and children ≥ age 10) • Cardiovascular death risk reduction in T2D + CVD • CKD risk reduction
Canagliflozin (Invokana)	• Type 2 diabetes (adults) • Cardiovascular death risk reduction in T2D + CVD • Diabetic kidney disease with albuminuria: delay CKD progression and reduce heart failure
Ertugliflozin (Steglatro)	• Type 2 diabetes (adults)

CKD – chronic kidney disease; CVD – cardiovascular disease; T2D – type 2 diabetes

FDA Warning about Vitamin B6 Deficiency and Associated Seizures for Carbidopa/Levodopa Drug Containing Products

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is requiring the addition of a warning to the prescribing information for carbidopa/levodopa agents to inform clinicians that these agents may cause vitamin B6 deficiency and vitamin B6 deficiency-associated seizures.

Clinicians should evaluate vitamin B6 levels before starting treatment with these agents, and if symptoms of vitamin B6 deficiency appear during treatment. Higher doses of carbidopa/levodopa have been associated with an increased risk of vitamin B6 deficiency. Seizures associated with the use of these products do not respond to traditional anti-seizure medications but are resolved after administration of vitamin B6.

[Drug Safety Communication](#)

Medicaid Statistics for Prescription Claims

March through May 2026

	FFS	Wellpoint	Iowa Total Care	Molina Healthcare
Total \$ Paid	\$3,193,144	\$113,237,275	\$93,244,422	\$69,394,209
# Paid Claims	21,704	752,415	634,729	490,728
Unique Users	3,338	103,102	96,408	81,232
Avg Cost/Rx	\$147.12	\$150.50	\$146.90	\$141.41
Top 5 Therapeutic Class by RX Count Therapeutic class taxonomy may differ among each plan	Antidepressants	Antidepressants	Antidepressants	Antidepressants
	Anticonvulsants	ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/Anti-Obesity	ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/Anti-Obesity	ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/Anti-Obesity
	ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/Anti-Obesity	Anticonvulsants	Anticonvulsants	Anticonvulsants
	Antipsychotics/Antimanic Agents	Antiasthmatic and Bronchodilator Agents	Antiasthmatic and Bronchodilator Agents	Antiasthmatic and Bronchodilator Agents
	Antiasthmatic and Bronchodilator Agents	Antipsychotics/Antimanic Agents	Antipsychotics/Antimanic Agents	Antidiabetics
Top 5 Therapeutic Class by \$ Amount (pre-rebate) Therapeutic class taxonomy may differ among each plan	Antidiabetics	Dermatologicals	Dermatologicals	Dermatologicals
	Analgesics – Anti-Inflammatory	Antidiabetics	Antidiabetics	Antidiabetics
	Dermatologicals	Antipsychotics/Antimanic Agents	Antipsychotics/Antimanic Agents	Antipsychotics/Antimanic Agents
	Antipsychotics/Antimanic Agents	Analgesics – Anti-Inflammatory	Analgesics – Anti-Inflammatory	Analgesics – Anti-Inflammatory
	ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/Anti-Obesity	ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/Anti-Obesity	ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/Anti-Obesity	ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/Anti-Obesity
Top 5 Drugs by Prescription Count	Albuterol	Trazodone	Albuterol	Albuterol HFA
	Cetirizine	Bupropion XL	Bupropion	Amoxicillin
	Trazodone	Albuterol HFA	Trazodone	Trazodone
	Methylphenidate	Sertraline	Amphetamine/Dextroamphetamine	Bupropion XL
	Amphetamine/Dextroamphetamine	Hydroxyzine HCl	Amoxicillin	Sertraline
Top 5 Drugs by Paid Amount (pre-rebate)	Humira Pen	Ozempic	Ozempic	Ozempic
	Evrysdi	Vraylar	Dupixent	Dupixent
	Ozempic	Dupixent Pen	Vraylar	Vraylar
	Dupixent	Mounjaro	Humira Pen	Skyrizi Pen
	Vraylar	Humira (CF) Pen	Trikafta	Humira