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IN BRIEF

Rybelsus R2 Rebranded as Ozempic

Oral semaglutide 1.5-, 4-, and 9-mg tablets, which were previously approved by the FDA (but never marketed) as the R2 formulation of *Rybelsus*, have now been approved as *Ozempic* (see Table 1). Both the original R1 formulation of *Rybelsus* (3-, 7-, and 14-mg tablets) and the renamed *Ozempic* tablets are FDA-approved for treatment of type 2 diabetes and to reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) in adults with type 2 diabetes who are at risk for these events.^{1,2} The R1 (*Rybelsus*) and R2 (*Ozempic*) formulations are not interchangeable on a mg-per-mg basis; *Ozempic* tablets contain inactive ingredients that enhance drug absorption and have greater bioavailability than *Rybelsus* R1 tablets.

Table 1. Oral Semaglutide Tablets Approval Timeline

September 2019	Oral semaglutide tablets (3-, 7-, 14-mg; R1 formulation) approved as <i>Rybelsus</i> for treatment of type 2 diabetes
December 2024	Reformulated semaglutide tablets (1.5-, 4-, 9-mg; R2 formulation) approved as <i>Rybelsus</i> for treatment of type 2 diabetes, but not marketed
October 2025	R1 and R2 formulations of <i>Rybelsus</i> approved for reduction of major cardiovascular events
January 2026	R2 formulation renamed <i>Ozempic</i> ; both formulations will be available for some time to allow transition to the R2 formulation

Note: In December 2025, oral semaglutide tablets (1.5-, 4-, 9-, and 25-mg tablets) were approved as *Wegovy* for weight management and prevention of major cardiovascular events.

The name change capitalizes on the brand-name recognition of *Ozempic*, which has been available for subcutaneous administration in patients with type 2 diabetes since 2017.

Ozempic tablets are expected to be available in the second quarter of 2026. *Rybelsus* R1 tablets will remain available for some time to allow for patients to switch to *Ozempic* tablets. ■

1. Noninsulin drugs for type 2 diabetes. Med Lett Drugs Ther 2025; 67:185.
2. A cardiovascular indication for oral semaglutide (*Rybelsus*). Med Lett Drugs Ther 2025; 67:195.

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