

A photograph of a family of three sitting on a grassy field. The father, on the left, has a beard and is wearing a grey t-shirt. The mother, on the right, has glasses and is wearing a blue denim jacket over a green top. A young child is sitting in front of them, smiling. The background is a blurred green landscape.

Weight: A matter of health

Understanding obesity and
the importance of making
it a healthcare priority

Our commitment to changing obesity

Know your options: What can we do?

Weight is part of our overall health

Living with obesity

Obesity: More than meets the eye

obesity



Obesity is a chronic, progressive disease that requires long-term management. Clinically speaking, it is diagnosed as a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more.

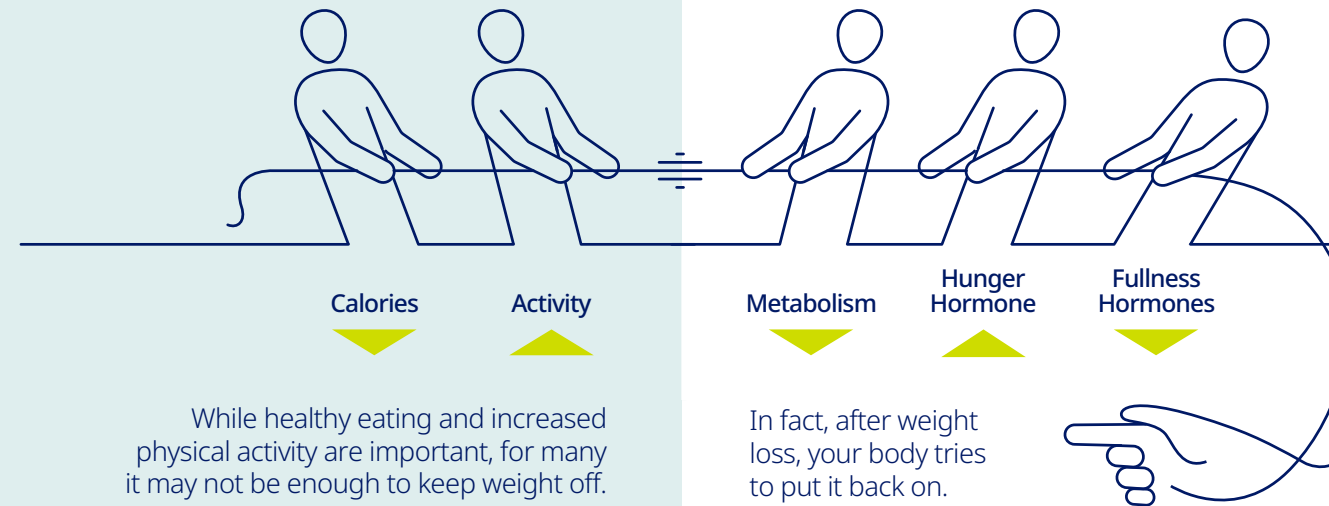
But there's more to weight than what you see. That's why the way we think, talk and care about obesity is changing. The time to act is now.

More than meets the eye

The tug-of-war of weight management

WEIGHT LOSS

WEIGHT GAIN



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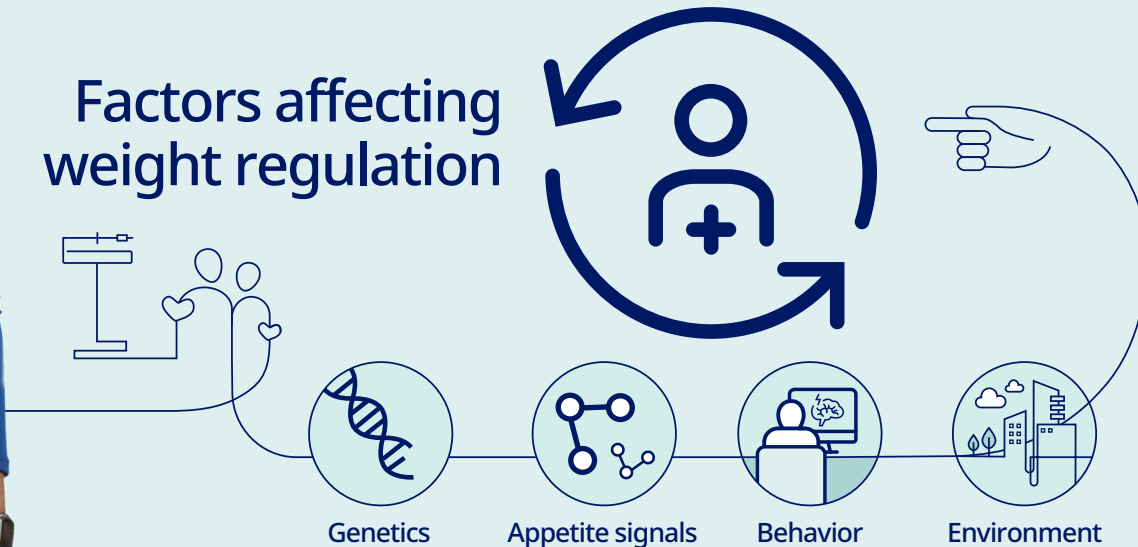
Our commitment to changing obesity



Living with obesity

There are many factors that affect weight management

Factors affecting weight regulation



/// Obesity is not a failure of willpower – there's a lot more going on. I wish I knew earlier in my life what I know now about the science of obesity. ///

Renee Rawls
Obesity Patient Ambassador

/// Telling someone with obesity to simply eat less and move more is like telling someone with depression to cheer up. It doesn't go to the root of the problem. ///

Dr. Arya M. Sharma
MD/PhD, FRCPC,
leading obesity expert

Genetics:

40-70% of the differences in BMI between people can be attributed to your genes. A person's genes can also determine how much external or environmental factors may impact their weight. These factors can include:

- Inadequate sleep
- Endocrine disruptors
- Certain medications

Appetite signals:

The body makes hormones, or messengers, that control body functions, such as appetite, digestion and metabolism.

When people lose weight, appetite signals are affected.

Behavior:

Eating habits and physical activity are important, but other factors matter too, like:

- Sleep
- Stress
- Low physical activity demands of modern lifestyle

Environment:

Environment can influence a person's behavior and can ultimately contribute to body weight. Here are some examples:

- Limited access to fresh, healthy foods
- Controlled temperatures created by air conditioning and heaters
- Social environment

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Find out how much obesity can impact many aspects of a person's physical and emotional well-being

Obesity is linked to more than

50 other health conditions

that can impact a person's health, including:

- Type 2 diabetes
- Cardiovascular disease
- Fatty liver disease
- Osteoarthritis
- High blood pressure
- Sleep apnea
- Some cancers
- Female infertility



Losing 5% of weight or more

and keeping it off can improve some weight-related conditions, such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

How could COVID-19 affect you?

According to the CDC, people with certain medical conditions, including obesity, have a higher risk of severe illness from the virus.



It's important to take extra care and check in with your healthcare provider.

The mental health impact of bias

While much has changed in recent years, every day, people with obesity are met with prejudice, discrimination and lack of compassion.

// For years I internalized weight bias and didn't seek the treatment or care that I needed because I was caught in a cycle of shame and blame. //

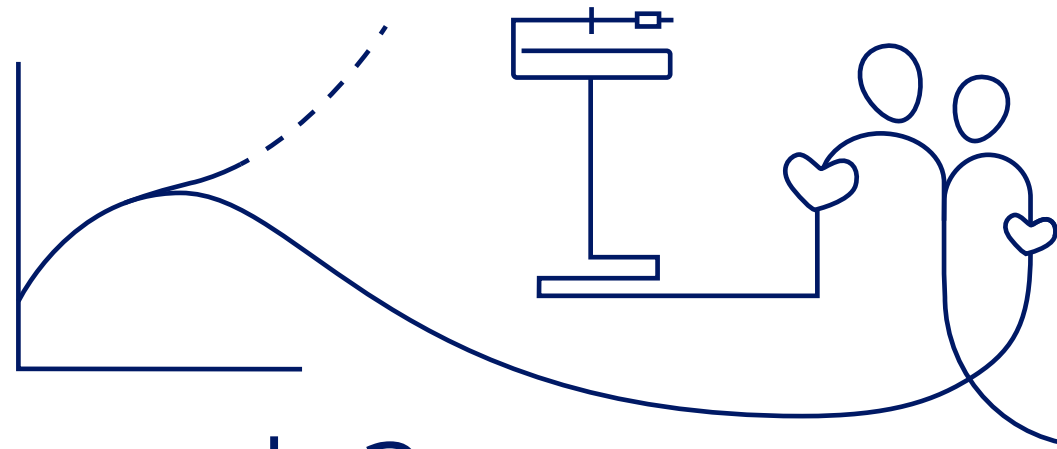
Patty Nece, Obesity Patient Ambassador



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What can we do?



Addressing obesity takes a multi-faceted approach with a collective effort from all of us.

Healthcare providers, payers and even employers can act together to ensure patients are properly diagnosed and have medical coverage for care and treatment.

We can confront bias in ourselves and others by being thoughtful in our words and actions.

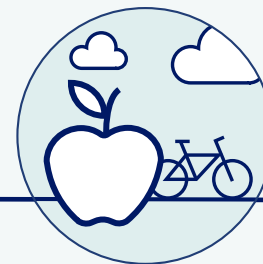
For example: People should not be labeled by their disease. Use person-first language like someone “lives with obesity” not “is obese.”



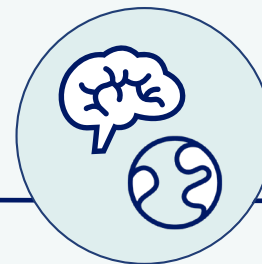
For appropriate patients, including prescription medicine as part of an individualized care plan increases the potential of losing weight.

Consider and utilize the treatment options available

There's more than one approach to long-term weight management



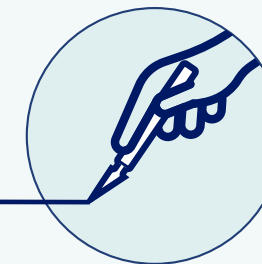
Healthy eating and physical activity



Behavioral approaches and environmental changes



Medicine



Surgical procedures



Managing other health conditions

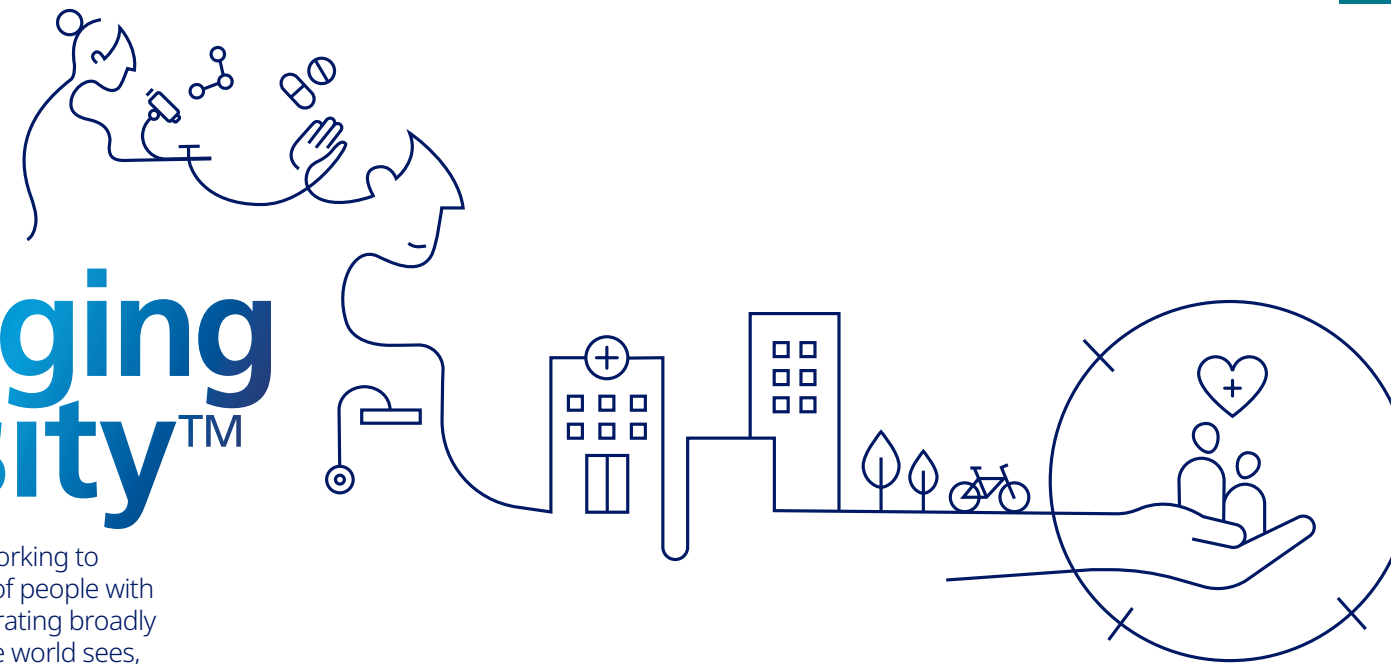
Ask your employer or insurer if the full continuum of care for obesity is covered in your health plan.

Our commitment to changing obesity



changing obesity™

Novo Nordisk is working to improve the lives of people with obesity by collaborating broadly to change how the world sees, prevents and treats obesity.



PREVENTION

We work to build healthier environments to enable improved health.

RECOGNITION

We work to foster empathy for people with obesity and make obesity a healthcare priority.

CARE

We work to ensure people with obesity have access to science-based and comprehensive care.

If you or your loved ones want more information, visit: [TruthAboutWeight.com](https://www.TruthAboutWeight.com) [NovoNordisk.us](https://www.NovoNordisk.us)



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