

The FDA's Concern with Compound Drugs & its Commercialization



By [Neela Bandla](#) on January 31st, 2025

The Food and Drug Administration is a part of the Department of Health & Human Services. It provides the regulations and rules that are in place for the United States when it comes to medicines and foods. One major concern for the FDA currently is weight loss medications. There are only six weight loss drugs that are FDA-approved for long-term use; Bupropion-naltrexone, liraglutide, orlistat, phentermine-topiramate, semaglutide, and setmelanotide.

The FDA's concern falls with compounded glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1). Compounded drugs are medications that are personalized for a patient under circumstances where FDA-approved medications can not be implemented into their daily lives. Typically, these medicines will combine in different units, which makes it difficult to regulate. Compounding pharmacies instead, are in control of how these compounded drugs are regulated.

Counterfeit medicines that are compounded are sold online through fake pharmaceutical sites. The danger in this is something that concerns the FDA, as there have been several

adverse events received about these products. Counterfeit medicines tend to look like real medications from legitimate sources, however, they have different, often dangerous, ingredients. The commercialization of GLP-1 medications makes many of these drugs seem safe for consumption. Many people tend to also order their medication online, which creates a network of people making unsafe and unhealthy drugs. However, the cost of these drugs for patients can be expensive, which is why they turn to sketchy, yet affordable options. Insurance, many times, has not covered the cost of these personalized drugs; so it is cheaper to buy the sketchier medications.

Weight loss medications are important to many, and with the rise of adverse issues being reported to the FDA themselves about medications they do not regulate, it is important to stay educated and to double check sources. Compounded drugs are very easily replicated, and they are sold at cheaper prices with more often the intent to harm the individual who purchases the item. More regulations and laws should be put in place to help prevent the spread of counterfeit drugs and to educate the general public on the dangers of ordering these life-saving medicines online.

Citations:

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