Culinary Health Fund

PPO Provider Newsletter

Issue 87 / November 6, 2026

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Important Telephone Numbers

Clinical Pathology Laboratories (CPL) 702-795-4900

Contracts and Credentialing
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702-892-7313 (option 1)

Culinary Health Centers
702-790-8000

Culinary Pharmacy
702-650-4417 (Tropicana Health Center)
702-963-9400 (Nellis Health Center)
725-223-2100 (Durango Health Center)
725-332-6464 (Craig Health Center)

Customer Service Office
702-733-9938

EyeMed
866-800-5457

Harmony Healthcare
702-251-8000 (24/7 & ABA Therapy Prior Authorizations)
702-788-9875 (Rapid Response)

Nevada Health Solutions (NHS)
www.nevadahealthsolutions.org
702-216-1653
Provider Portal:
https://nhs.acuitynxt.com/providerportal

OptumRx Prescription Services
866-611-5960 (24/7)
800-791-7658 (Home Delivery)
877-838-2907 (Specialty)

November Health and Wellness Classes

The Culinary Health Fund offers virtual as well as in-person wellness classes at our health centers.

A referral is not needed for any of our classes, but patients are more likely to attend when their doctor refers them and follows up on their progress. This month's classes include the following topics:

- **Diabetes 1** – Learn about diabetes, how to measure your blood sugar and tips to live healthier.
- **Breastfeeding** – Find out how to prepare for breastfeeding and using a breast pump and how to get help while breastfeeding.
- **High Blood Pressure** – Learn how high blood pressure can affect your life.

You can conveniently view class dates and times on the website at: **https://www.culinaryhealthfund.org/healthy-living-class-schedule/**

Inactive Providers – October

The following is a list of providers* that are **no longer active** as a Plan Provider on the Culinary Health Fund provider network:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TITLE	SPECIALTY
Daoud	Nasim	MD	Rheumatology
Fong	Taylor	PAC	Pediatric Ortho Surgery
Ong	Rachel	OMD	Acupuncture
Tselkis	Nicholas	MD	Cardiology
Urology Specialists of Nevada			Urology

***List provided monthly**

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Pharmacy Updates

SGLT-2 Inhibitors: Understanding Key Differences Across the Class

SGLT-2 inhibitors have evolved from glucose-lowering agents into important cardiorenal therapies. Product selection should reflect the patient's primary treatment goal and the specific FDA-approved indication of the individual agent.

Place in therapy

- **Type 2 diabetes:** All products below are approved for glycemic control; pediatric approval varies by product.
- **Heart failure and CKD:** Farxiga (dapagliflozin) and Jardiance (empagliflozin) have the broadest indications, including eligible adults without diabetes.
- **Cardiovascular risk:** Outcome claims differ by agent and should not be treated as interchangeable.
- **Generic opportunity:** Generic dapagliflozin became available in April 2026 in the same 5 mg and 10 mg strengths as brand Farxiga.

SGLT-2 Product Comparison

Product	Strengths	Type 2 Diabetes (T2DM)	Heart Failure (HF)	Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)	Available Onsite?
Farxiga (dapagliflozin) Generic now available	5 mg, 10 mg	Adults and ages 10+	Broad adult indication	Broad adult indication	Yes
Jardiance (empagliflozin)	10 mg, 25 mg	Adults and ages 10+	Broad adult indication	Broad adult indication	Yes
Invokana (canagliflozin)	100 mg, 300 mg	Adults and ages 10+	No broad stand-alone indication	Narrower: T2D with diabetic nephropathy and albuminuria	No
Steglatro (ertugliflozin)	5 mg, 15 mg	Adults only	N/A	N/A	No
Brenzavvy (bexagliflozin)	20 mg	Adults only	N/A	N/A	No

Farxiga vs Jardiance: indication differences

- Farxiga (dapagliflozin) and Jardiance (empagliflozin) have substantial overlap across type 2 diabetes, heart failure, and chronic kidney disease, making them the broadest cardiorenal therapies within the SGLT2 inhibitor class.
    - Both are approved for glycemic control in adults and pediatric patients age 10 years and older and have broad adult indications for both heart failure and CKD.The primary difference is their cardiovascular outcome claim in type 2 diabetes.
- The key difference is their cardiovascular outcome claim in type 2 diabetes. Jardiance (empagliflozin) is approved to reduce cardiovascular death in adults with established cardiovascular disease, whereas Farxiga (dapagliflozin) is approved to reduce hospitalization for heart failure in adults with established cardiovascular disease or multiple cardiovascular risk factors. Farxiga also includes urgent heart failure visits in its heart failure indication

Indication	Farxiga (dapagliflozin)	Jardiance (empagliflozin)
Heart Failure (HF)	Reduces CV death, HF hospitalization, and urgent HF visits	Reduces CV death and HF hospitalization
Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)	Broad adult CKD indication; includes sustained eGFR decline, end-stage kidney disease, CV death, and hospitalization	
T2DM-Related Cardiovascular Disease	Reduces HF hospitalization with established CVD or multiple CV risk factors	Reduces CV death with established CVD

Clinical pearls: Generic dapagliflozin was launched April 2026 and may offer a lower-cost SGLT-2 option when clinically appropriate. Changing from Jardiance to dapagliflozin is a therapeutic switch requiring prescriber review if clinically appropriate

Abbreviations: CKD, chronic kidney disease; CV, cardiovascular; CVD, cardiovascular disease; HF, heart failure; T2DM, type 2 diabetes.