

## Who should take an obesity drug? A new genetic test class to identify patients most likely to benefit

As everyone in health care is trying to figure out which patients should get [pricey new weight-loss drugs](#), a biotech company spun out of the Mayo Clinic is betting the genetics-based approach it's pioneering may hold the answer.

Why it matters: Despite [soaring demand](#) for the class of drugs known as GLP-1s, certain patients may do better with older and cheaper treatments for obesity.

Homing in on obesity's genetic underpinnings through precision medicine may represent a more cost-effective way of tackling weight loss, Phenomix Sciences says.

What they're saying: "We're not going to solve the obesity crisis by treating 100 million people" with drugs like Wegovy, which has a list price of \$16,000 a year, Phenomix CEO Mark Bagnall told Axios.

Follow the latest news and policy debates on sustainable agriculture, biomedicine, and other 'disruptive' innovations. Subscribe to our newsletter.

[SIGN UP](#)

The big picture: Other researchers are searching for biomarkers to better target GLP-1 use.

For example, a study of Type 2 diabetics in [The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology](#) last year found Hispanic and American Indian or Alaska Native populations are more likely to have a genetic variant indicating they may respond particularly well to GLP-1s agonists compared with European white populations.

[\*\*This is an excerpt. Read the full article here\*\*](#)