

Letter 11

From: [deborah smith](#)
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Group Insurance Board Issue
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:45:27 AM

Dear Board Members;

I worked for the State of Wisconsin for 32 years before retiring. During my working life and now in retirement, I have generally been satisfied with the health insurance coverage offered by the State of Wisconsin. Over the years, new procedures and services and new medications have been added as medical science shows their efficacy and cost effectiveness. I understand that the Board is now considering whether the State plans should now cover bariatric surgery. I strongly encourage you to extend coverage for these procedures.

Obesity is not just something that happens to someone who enjoys too many brats, deep fried cheese curds and beer. It is a complex, chronic disease. There are now high quality studies that show that with bariatric surgery patients not only lose dramatic amounts of weight, but that other life endangering conditions can be reversed or prevented. These include high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes. There are new long term studies that show that the health benefits from bariatric surgery continue and make the treatment cost effective in the long run. Patients live longer, have less high blood pressure and a lower risk of cancer. That's why Medicare/Medicaid now covers the procedures.

Please take the time to review the evidence and listen to the recommendations of the doctors.

Sincerely,
Deborah M Smith