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**Correspondence Memorandum**

**Date:** October 21, 2020  
**To:** Group Insurance Board  
**From:** Renee Walk, Lead Policy Advisor  
Arlene Larson, Manager of Federal Health Programs & Policy  
Tricia Sieg, Pharmacy Program Manager  
Office of Strategic Health Policy  
**Subject:** GIB Initiatives Update

**This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.**

**Background**

At the November 2019 meeting of the Group Insurance Board (Board), ETF presented a series of possible initiatives for exploration that could lead to Group Health Insurance Program (GHIP) improvements (Ref. GIB | 11.13.19 | 6). The Board approved a timeline for development of these initiatives in February 2020. This memo provides a summary of the current status of those initiatives and adjustments to the timelines of some projects.

**Mental Health Parity & Access**

*Original target date: November 2020*

*New target date: February 2021*

Mental health care and service access has been a long-standing issue for the Board's population, and ETF expects that the need has only grown in the midst of the global pandemic. ETF is working on a summary of the need amongst members of the Board's programs, as well as plan-specific coverage information and provider access data to inform whether any changes or enhancements to benefits or programs should be recommended for the coming plan year. ETF is delaying the delivery of this report to the Board due to competing, time-sensitive issues that require Board input at the November meeting and a desire to provide adequate time for discussion of this critical issue. ETF will continue to work with plans in the meantime to ensure that access information is clearly communicated to members.

Reviewed and approved by Eileen K Mallow, Director, Office of Strategic Health Policy

Electronically Signed 11/4/20

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
GIB	11.18.20	4B

### **Wisconsin Public Employer (WPE) Program Strategy**

*Original target date: February 2021*

*Currently on schedule for February discussion*

The WPE GHIP has seen decreases in subscriber enrollment since 2016. In addition, employers and health plans have contacted ETF with concerns about perceived problems in the WPE GHIP. ETF is investigating the strengths and weaknesses of the program. We are planning strategies for outreach to stakeholders and experts, including contacting other states who offer voluntary local health insurance programs for market research. We are also analyzing data provided by the DAISI data warehouse. ETF will bring its findings to the Board along with options for discussion at the February 2021 Board meeting.

### **Specialty Drugs & Site of Care**

*Original target date: February 2021*

*Currently on schedule for February discussion*

Using medical and pharmacy claim data from the DAISI data warehouse, our team has identified the price for individual pharmaceuticals under both programs. Currently ETF's Office of Legal Services, Office of Strategic Health Policy and Office of Policy, Privacy and Compliance are working to create a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) with Navitus Health Solutions (Navitus) for one year's worth of data. This DSA will allow for the sharing of medical insurance drug claim information from DAISI to Navitus.

Navitus will then study the data and compare drug costs under the medical benefit versus the cost under the pharmacy benefit. Navitus will also examine medical benefit data on site of care where a medication is provided (e.g., hospital, clinic, etc.). This will help the team identify if there are equally accessible, less expensive locations/options for members to receive medications. ETF plans to bring an analysis and proposal for the Board's consideration to the February 2021 Board meeting.

### **High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) Product Plan**

*Original scheduled date: February 2021*

*Delaying to November 2021*

The team working on the product strategy for the HDHP plans to bring several questions to the Board for consideration, including how the Board views this product in the broader scope of its other plan offerings, as well as how it would like to approach dual enrollment requirements and options to change the services allowed before deductible is met.

ETF has also been in discussion with the University of Wisconsin Madison School of Business regarding possible research opportunities that could help ETF better understand how people choose their health plans and how to help members choose the best plan for their financial circumstances. This research will likely take time to establish, and so ETF will plan to hold discussion on this item until later in 2021 when work on the concurrent research project is also underway.

**Social Determinants of Health**

*Original scheduled date: November 2021*

*Currently on schedule for November discussion*

Social determinants of health are non-clinical factors that impact an individual's health and include factors such as education, income level, race, and community. ETF will present to the Board an analysis of potential impacts of social determinants of health, as well as any options that might arise for the Board to help improve negative factors. This initial report is also planned for presentation in November of 2021.

Staff will be available at the Board meeting to answer any questions.