

From: [Severt, Jesse S - DOC](#)
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Benefits
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 10:52:22 AM

Asking the board to discuss the possibility of adding Diabetic supplies as Preventative care?

I know some local municipalities are discussing and adding this to their plans. Specifically, Tomahawk area school district does offer this, which is local to me and how I became aware of the benefit.

I appreciate your time and concern to this matter. This is a huge obstacle for the few people that need to take on this burden and to no fault of their own. Specifically Type 1 Diabetics.

Jesse S. Severt

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October 27, 2021

Jesse.Severt@wisconsin.gov

Dear Mr. Severt,

Thank you for your email regarding the possibility of the Group Insurance Board (GIB) adding diabetic supplies as preventive care. We understand your concerns regarding the costs of these supplies for people with diabetes.

To be covered as preventive, a service must be listed as either A or B rated by the [US Preventive Services Task Force](#) (USPSTF). The USPSTF makes evidence-based recommendations about preventive services such as screenings, behavioral counseling, and preventive medications. The USPSTF does not currently include diabetic supplies as a preventive service.

[Wis. Stats. 40.52\(1\)\(b\)](#) lays out the coverage requirements for diabetes supplies under the Group Health Insurance Program (GHIP) managed by ETF and the GIB. Chapter 40.52(1)(b) requires that diabetes treatment, supplies, equipment, and prescriptions be treated the same as other medical care. The GIB has considered broadening diabetes coverage in the past, but the Board is limited in its ability to add coverage that will increase costs to the plan (Wis. Stats. 40.03(6)(c)). Every May, the GIB considers changes to the State and Local Group Health Insurance for the upcoming year. The GIB will continue to explore changes to diabetes coverage that fall within both federal and state law.

ETF's Wellness Program offers enrollment into a pilot program that focuses on diabetes management. Members who participate in the program through ETF's wellness vendor, WebMD, receive their anti-diabetic prescription drugs for free or at a reduced rate. Under the program there is no co-pay for level 1 drugs and for level 2 drugs members will pay the lesser of \$10 or 20% (level 2 drugs normally cost members 20% up to a \$50 maximum). Information about the 2022 diabetes management pilot program and the drugs that are included in the program is attached.

Again, thank you for your email. If you have any further questions or need any assistance, please feel free to reach out to ETF's Pharmacy Benefit Program Manager Tricia Sieg at tricia.sieg@etf.wi.gov or at (608) 261-6006.

Sincerely,

Eileen Mallow, Director, Office of Strategic Health Policy
Department of Employee Trust Funds

cc: Group Insurance Board