

Weight-Loss Drug Coverage Options Review

GIB Item 4

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Office of Strategic Health Policy





Action Needed

ETF requests the Board not add weight-loss drugs to the 2023 non-Medicare Formulary. The Board instructs ETF present a holistic view of weight loss programming at the November 16, 2022, Board meeting.

Estimated Weight-Loss Drug Costs to the Board

- Segal estimates the cost of adding weight-loss drugs to the non-Medicare formulary to be \$12 million - \$17 million
- This is based on Segal's assumptions that:
 - 20% of the Group Health Insurance Plan members are overweight/obese
 - 3% of those who are overweight/obese would take a weight-loss drug
 - Estimate of 1,300 members taking weight-loss drugs

Long-Term Effects and Costs

- No published studies on health of people who take weight-loss drugs for an extended time
- Study conducted on cost savings of taking weight-loss drugs but did not factor in cost of treating any of the black box warnings, safety risks, precautions and adverse effects associated with weight-loss drugs

Member Weight-Loss Drug Experience

- Navitus has five weight-loss drugs available to be added to non-Medicare formularies
- Drugs are for people with a BMI of 27 or higher and a weight-related medical issue or adults with a BMI of 30 or higher
- Weight-loss drug use must be accompanied by exercise and dietary changes

Option One

Add all weight-loss drugs currently available through the Board's PBM to 2023 non-Medicare formulary

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gives members the fastest access to weight-loss drugs• New members, with weight-loss drug coverage at their previous private sector employer, would have uninterrupted coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An increase in the Board's pharmacy drug spend• Lack of studies on long-term weight-loss drug use on a person's health could lead to increase in medical spend• Very few members have asked for the addition of weight-loss drug coverage, but many of have asked for coverage of other weight loss supporting activities• No evidence of long-term cost-benefit could erase any savings that the Board may realize in reduced medical claims.

Option Two

Vote to not add weight-loss drugs to the 2023 non-Medicare Formulary

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow ETF to gather more information and present a holistic view of weight loss at the November 2022 Board meeting• Help to limit the increase in pharmacy benefit spend for 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board would not be able to make any pharmacy, wellness or medical additions or changes to assist with weight loss until the May 2023 Board meeting with the changes going live January 1, 2024• Members who want weight-loss drug coverage may leave public service to gain coverage



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Questions?

Thank you



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