

From: [Vincent, Kelsey F - DHS](#)
To: [Doss-Anderson, Liz - ETF](#); [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Mounjaro Medication
Date: Monday, November 7, 2022 3:31:39 PM

Hello—please record my email as documentation to support the use of coverage of Mounjaro for weight loss.

This medication should be covered by insurance. The upfront cost does not outweigh the long term benefits for treating and managing obesity. Obesity is a complex disease that results in long term chronic health problems—all for which costs money—such as stroke, joint replacements, end stage renal disease. These medications are beneficial to so many and can help prevent long term chronic disease, reducing health care costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please reach out to me if you would like additional information on my experience.

Kelsey

Kelsey Vincent, MPA

(pronouns: she/her)

Program Access & Intake Section Manager

Bureau of Children's Services, Division of Medicaid Services

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November 9, 2022

Kelsey Vincent
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Vincent:

Thank you for your email to the Group Insurance Board (Board) in support of weight-loss drug coverage.

You wrote that the upfront cost of weight-loss drugs does not outweigh the long-term benefits of treating and managing obesity. At the November 16, 2022, Board meeting, ETF staff will be presenting a weight management analysis to the Board. The accompanying memo, "[Weight Management Analysis](#)," includes an examination of the Group Health Insurance Program's (GHIP's) medical, pharmacy, and wellness benefits; other states' employee health insurance benefits approach to weight management; legal limitations; and the next steps for the Board to consider.

Included in the memo is a discussion of the costs and current known benefits of weight-loss drugs. The current insurance-negotiated prices of the most effective drugs—semaglutide (Wegovy) and liraglutide (Saxenda)—are between \$11,000–\$13,000 per year. These drugs are only estimated to save about \$1,400 per year according to studies sponsored by the companies who manufacturer weight-loss drugs, and patients may need to take the drugs for the rest of their lives. The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) recommended weight-loss drugs be priced substantially lower to be in line with the health benefits they provide in a press release article, "[ICER Publishes Evidence Report on Treatments for Obesity Management](#)."

Due to [Wis. Stats. § 40.03\(6\)\(c\)](#), the Board cannot add benefits that do not have concurrent savings and, as it stands today, the annual costs are not justified in the available literature.

The Board will take no action at the November meeting but possible next steps regarding weight management will be discussed. The November 16, 2022, meeting agenda on the "[Group Insurance Board Meeting Agendas and Materials](#)" page, contains information about how to attend the meeting either in person or virtually.

The Board will consider changes and additional coverages to the GHIP for the 2024 benefit year at the May 2023 Board meeting. ETF staff are eager to learn if the long-term studies currently being conducted on weight-loss drugs will show that long-term

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usage of the drug causes no health issues to users. If the studies show health benefits, then the cost savings of weight-loss drugs may outweigh the high cost of the drugs.

Again, thank you for your email and for sharing your weight loss experience. If you have any other further questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact information below.

Sincerely,

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