

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** GLP-1 Agonists for Weight Loss  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:00:02 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good Morning,

I am writing a note to you this morning requesting consideration of covering GLP-1 agonists with prior authorization for use in chronic weight loss and weight management of obese individuals. These medications may commonly be recognized by their brand names Ozempic, Wegovy, Saxenda, Trulicity or Mounjaro, etc. and are utilized wide-spread to treat type two diabetes. Although Mounjaro is not yet approved by the FDA for use as a chronic weight loss or weight management aide, it is being considered now and may likely get approved spring 2023. Most prescription medications for weight loss are only recommended for people with a BMI higher than 30 or higher than 27 with other risk factors. GLP-1 agonists are long-acting medications which mirror hormones the body already produces to better respond to the presence of food, delaying the stomach emptying and promoting a feeling of fullness longer after eating. Overall, they may decrease an individual's appetite so that they eat less.

Healthcare providers have endorsed these medications as a way to treat obesity without surgery or surgical after care. As part of a chronic weight loss or management program, these medicines have proved to increase an individuals weight loss over time and also allowed individuals to decrease or even cease the use of other medications they have to use to combat the side-effects of chronic obesity. Studies show that as weight decreases, so does the prevalence of diabetes, chronic heart disease, high-blood pressure, high-cholesterol and joint issues. Thus, the usage of other medications and other healthcare services also reduces not only producing a better quality of life, but also less expense to the individual and their employer/insurance plan.

In addition, healthcare institutions are challenged with high volumes of very acutely ill patients who need services immediately coupled with a workforce shortage. Often times it may be difficult to schedule a bariatric surgery as it may be considered elective in nature. The allowance of a non-surgical resolution to chronic obesity, such as GLP-1 agonists, would allow individuals an option in this regard when coupled with routine visits to their primary care practitioner. Likewise, the cost of the medication, even over time, may be less expensive than a bariatric surgery, after care and even additional surgeries needed to remove skin or due to complications. While etf does offer Well Wisconsin as a benefit, is this program successful in helping individuals achieve weight loss or weight management in the chronically obese?

Allowing these medications with prior authorization to be covered by etf medical insurance plans not only offers an affordable, convenient option for individuals needing to lose weight and manage their chronic disease, but also would show members that the State of Wisconsin is progressive and

contemporary in their benefit plan designs. The optics on this from a workforce management perspective may be very positive.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and allowing me to advocate on behalf of our covered team members.

Jenny

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