

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Adding anti-obesity medications to the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program
Date: Saturday, April 29, 2023 11:56:38 AM

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April 29, 2023

TO: The Group Insurance Board (GIB) ETFSMBoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov

FROM: Katie Hajdu, Educator, Oregon School District

RE: Adding anti-obesity medications to the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program

Hello,

As a public employee at the Oregon School District, I am writing to you regarding the consideration for anti-obesity medications (AOMs) to be added to the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program so public employees have equitable access to the care we need. As part of a chronic weight loss or management program, these medicines have proved to increase an individual's 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. Adding AOMs to the health insurance program for public employees can lead to numerous benefits, such as improved health outcomes, better quality of life for members and increased productivity. Providing access to AOMs under the state's health insurance plan provides members with another option when considering the best decision to make for our health.

Access to quality healthcare is an inalienable right for all. As such, ensuring that AOMs are available to Wisconsin public employees means that its citizens' rights are honored and valued.

As state employees in Wisconsin, we deserve to have access to the same quality of care our peers have in all of our neighboring states. Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan have already taken the crucial step in ensuring their public employees have access to AOMs, and many private sector employees have access to these treatments as well.

Including AOMs in the state employee health insurance plan not only brings us up to speed with our peers; it can aid in productivity at work as well. If members have access to AOMs in their health insurance plan, individuals may be able to improve their energy levels, reduce absenteeism, and increase productivity at work. Wisconsin public employees will not only have access to the same care as other states; we can also be competitive in productivity and employee satisfaction.

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 benefit plans meet their employees needs. The Wisconsin Medicaid program offers anti-obesity medication as a benefit to their recipients. I am asking the GIB to add AOMs to the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program as well. Thank you for your consideration on this matter and allowing me to advocate as an employee on this issue.

Sincerely,
Katie Hajdu