

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Cc: [Katy Walter](#)
Subject: Wisconsin Group Insurance Board
Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 11:31:24 PM
Attachments: [PCNA letter to WGIB AOM Coverage.pdf](#)

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To whom it may concern,
Please see the attached letter from the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses
Association regarding coverage for anti-obesity medications.
Thank you
Chloe Villavaso



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May 15, 2023

Members of the Group Insurance Board,

I am writing to express the support of the Prevention Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA) for anti-obesity medication (AOM) coverage for state employees during the 2024 plan year.

PCNA is a national organization headquartered in Madison, WI. Our members are nurses, nurse practitioners, and other healthcare professionals that assess cardiovascular risk, facilitate lifestyle changes, and guide individuals to achieve treatment goals in various clinical settings across the country. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in the U.S., with one in every five deaths—nearly 700,000 people annually. Major CVD risk factors identified by the Framingham Heart Study and the INTERHEART Study include dyslipidemia, hypertension, smoking, diabetes, and obesity.

While our nurses well understand the importance of lifestyle changes to combat CVD, obesity is more than a result of individual behaviors. Once weight gain occurs, the body resists any weight loss attempts; therefore, healthcare providers must work with their patients to manage obesity using techniques similar to other chronic, long-term conditions.

While weight loss pharmacological agents have been stigmatized for decades, new drug classes have emerged which show positive effects for patients with obesity and CVD. We commend the Wisconsin Employee Trust Fund for their decision to offer coverage for bariatric surgery and the associated intensive behavioral therapy services from 2020 onwards. PCNA strongly supports the addition of AOMs that have been found to be scientifically effective in addressing and reducing obesity, and therefore mitigating the risk of CVD.

Providing coverage for FDA-approved obesity medications is a crucial component of a comprehensive treatment strategy and aligns with evidence-based clinical guidelines. Currently, 25 states have taken measures to expand access to care by providing coverage for AOMs for their state employees. PCNA urges the Group Insurance Board to approve coverage for AOMs for Wisconsin state employees.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Chloé D. Villavaso, MN, APRN, ACNS-BC, FPCNA, AACC

PCNA Advocacy Committee Chair
PCNA Board of Directors