

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Adding anti-obesity medications to the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:59:37 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

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DATE: May 16, 2023

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

FROM: Amanda (Longdin) McCormick, Teacher, Fond du Lac School District

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

Hello,

As a public employee in the Fond du Lac 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 and quality of life for members, increased productivity, etc.

Many teachers and other public school employees struggle with obesity and its detrimental side effects, [REDACTED]. Our jobs are incredibly stressful, and our lives are busier than most. We do not get to leave our work at work. We try to make smart choices regarding diet and exercise, but it is often not enough. Access to AOMs is not only equitable but essential.

Providing members with access to AOMs in our health insurance plans would contribute to better weight management, which also leads to improved health outcomes and a lower risk of developing chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and certain types of cancer. Further, obesity has a significant impact on an individual's quality of life, such as decreased mobility, lower self-esteem and depression. Including AOMs in the state insurance health plan helps folks more easily manage their weight and improve their overall quality of life, while reducing the risk of related, serious health issues.

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. All our neighboring states (Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan) offer anti-obesity medication as a benefit to their public employees. The Wisconsin Medicaid program offers anti-obesity medication as a benefit to its 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 for allowing me to advocate as an employee on this issue.

Sincerely,

Amanda McCormick



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[REDACTED]
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