

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Inclusion of Anti Obesity Medications in the State Health Plan Formulary
Date: Friday, January 19, 2024 3:58:48 PM

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Members of the Group Insurance Board,

As a Physician Assistant specializing in pain management at UW Health, I have dedicated my career to alleviating the suffering of those grappling with chronic pain, often linked to underlying health conditions like obesity. I wish to express my strong support for the proposal to include anti-obesity medications (AOMs) in our state health plan's medication formulary that this Board is currently evaluating.

In my daily practice, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact obesity has on individuals' health, particularly in exacerbating chronic pain conditions such as pelvic, abdominal, low back pain and related debilitating conditions. The link between obesity and these painful conditions is undeniable, and as such, addressing obesity directly can significantly reduce the burden of chronic pain on our patients, improving quality of life and worker productivity.

Moreover, the long-term implications of obesity go beyond individual health concerns. The financial burden on our healthcare system due to obesity-related conditions is immense and growing. By including anti-obesity medications in our formulary, we would take a proactive step towards bending the long-term cost curve in healthcare. Preventing and managing obesity more effectively can lead to reduced healthcare spending in the future, particularly in avoiding expensive treatments for complications that arise from obesity-related conditions including heart disease, many types of cancers, diabetes, thoracic dysfunction and immobility.

Additionally our overall health and well-being directly impact our productivity and ability to serve our community effectively. Improved access to anti-obesity medications where clinically indicated can and will lead to better overall health, increased energy levels, and reduced absenteeism, thereby enhancing our productivity and efficiency at work. Personally and within my own extended family, I have dealt with occasional issues surrounding weight loss and I believe this benefit would provide new options for many people.

I also want to highlight the broader perspective of modernizing our healthcare approach and ensuring we have a competitive workforce and economy. Many of our neighboring Midwest states and the federal government have already recognized the significance of including anti-obesity medications in their employee healthcare plans.

As healthcare professionals, we should be equipped with every tool possible to provide comprehensive care, and this includes access to effective anti-obesity medications.

In conclusion, I urge the Group Insurance Board to consider the inclusion of anti-obesity medications in the state health plan formulary. This decision has the potential not only to improve the quality of life for many of our state employees but also to provide a more cost-effective solution to managing health care expenses in the long term.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to a positive response and the impactful changes it can bring to our state healthcare system.

Sincerely,

Amy Lovell, PA-C, MS

Pain Management Specialist