

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Anti-obesity medications consideratino
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:27:55 PM

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Dear Members of the Group Insurance Board,

I'm an academic clinical cardiologist with over 8 years on faculty at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Medicine and Public Health and UW Health. Throughout my career, I have encountered numerous patient interactions where obesity-related complications have severely impacted heart health and overall wellness. I am reaching out to advocate for the inclusion of anti-obesity medications (AOMs) in our Commercial Pharmacy Formulary for the 2025 benefit year because I believe we need to embrace an all-of-the-above response to the obesity epidemic in Wisconsin and nationally.

And as you are aware, many states and the federal government have already expanded state health plan coverage for the anti-obesity medications over the past year or two. I believe incorporating these medications into our formulary is a step towards embracing a comprehensive approach to health care and would benefit our WI patients greatly.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Best,

Roderick C Deaño, MD MPH

Associate Professor of Medicine

Cardiology



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employee Trust Funds
A. John Voelker
SECRETARY

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February 2, 2024

Roderick C Deaño, MD MPH
[REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Roderick Deaño:

Thank you for your email to the Group Insurance Board (Board) regarding adding coverage of anti-obesity medications (AOMs) to the state employee health plans known as the Group Health Insurance Program (GHIP).

The Board will consider 2025 GHIP changes at its February 21, 2024, meeting. The agenda, memos, and presentations for that meeting will be posted on the Department of Employee Trust Funds' (ETF's) "[Group Insurance Board Meeting Agendas and Materials](#)" webpage about a week prior to the meeting.

While ETF staff continues to monitor cost-effectiveness research, the current pricing of these drugs is still greater than the measurable savings. The Board must still adhere to [Wis. Stat. § 40.03\(6\)\(c\)](#) that only allows the Board to add benefits to the GHIP if the addition is mandated by law or if a savings can be demonstrated. If neither of these provisions are met, the Board must reduce benefits to allow for the addition of new benefits.

Recent market data has suggested that weight loss medications account for 1% of annual premium increases for 2024. The Board would either need to reduce \$18M in benefits to accommodate this cost increase, greater savings values would need to be shown in literature, or pharmaceutical companies would need to reduce prices to bring the costs in line with the demonstrated benefits.

Again, thank you for your email. If you have any other questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,

Tricia Sieg, Pharmacy Benefits Program Manager
Office of Strategic Health Policy
Department of Employee Trust Funds

Roderick Deaño
February 2, 2024
Page 2

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