

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Anti obesity medicine coverage
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 7:09:36 PM

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Dear ETF/GHIB,

My name is Chris Bowman and I'm the spouse of a dedicated WI state employee at UW Hospitals and Clinics. I understand that this Board is currently considering expanding coverage for anti obesity medicines (AOMs) for our group health plans and I want to go on the record in stating my strong support for this action from both a personal, public health, equity and financial perspective. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] is GLP-1s. Without insurance, that would be \$1200/ month which isn't feasible.

I believe it's really important for me and the thousands of other public serving employees (and their families) to have access to these FDA approved medicines in consultation with our personal health care team. Obesity has become a true epidemic in Wisconsin and around the country and it's costing tens of billions of dollars because it can lead to so many life altering and negative complications both physical and mental if we don't try new approaches. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]ason
why WI state and local government employees should not have similar access to these medications that many of our peers in the private sector and government workers in neighboring Midwestern states (like Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana) and the federal government can already access.

I also think providing these new benefits would promote healthier living overall, which means more productive and happy workers who can better fulfill their organization's mission and encourage others to join the state workforce and offer their talents. If members have access to anti-obesity medication in their health insurance plan, better weight management could lead to improved health outcomes and a lower risk of developing chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and certain types of cancer.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Best,

Chris Bowman
[REDACTED]



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February 6, 2024

Chris Bowman
[REDACTED]

Dear Chris Bowman:

Thank you for your email to the Group Insurance Board (Board) regarding adding coverage of anti-obesity medications (AOMs) to 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 and sharing your personal story. 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

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