

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: anti obesity medicine coverage
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 4:18:01 PM

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Dear ETF/GHIB,

My name is Aaron Seligman and I've been a dedicated public employee at the Universities of Wisconsin Administration for the past five years, where I have the opportunity to work with public employees from all 13 of our campuses from across the state. My wife also works in public health, having spent eight years at our county public health department, including during the challenging times of the COVID-19 crisis.

I understand that this Board is currently considering expanding coverage for anti obesity medicines (AOMs) for our group health plans and I want to explain my support for this from personal, public health, and professional standpoint.

[REDACTED]

From a public health standpoint - I know from my wife's expertise how much more challenging and devastating the COVID-19 pandemic was for people who are obese. As a parent of young kids, I know how hard it is for parents to access healthy meals and time to exercise, and no matter what many do it can be hard to maintain a healthy weight on their own. The public health mantra is "making the healthy choice the easy choice" and providing access to these medications and make things easier for young parents would be a great choice.

Professionally, I also see the challenges of obesity, and the impact of benefits coverage on employee health and retention. At the UW, we've seen employees leave for other universities and states (including those on our borders) that provide better benefits, which is creating a real crisis not just for the Universities, but for the future of higher education and our state workforce. Providing this benefit would be a big help to recruit and retain top talent. In addition on a practical level, at the Administration level where we often hold gatherings and conferences, I see how challenging obesity can be for people to travel, maintain energy for events, and to avoid missing work for illnesses that are exacerbated by obesity.

Thank you for your consideration, and again I strongly urge you to support for expanded coverage.

Aaron



Aaron A. Seligman





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February 12, 2024

Aaron A. Seligman
[REDACTED]

Dear Aaron Seligman:

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. I'm happy to hear that you are on track to fully recover from your shoulder injury.

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

Sincerely,

Aaron Seligman
February 12, 2024
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