

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Adding anti obesity medicines to formulary
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 10:37:08 AM

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Dear ETF and Group Insurance Board,
My name is Patty Paulson and I am a retired UW Health Registered Nurse who worked for over 25 years across various treatment departments, regularly treating patients with obesity related conditions, some of which caused debilitating effects such as severe mobility limitations, chronic pain, diabetes, swelling and other quality of life issues.

I heard from past colleagues that the Board is currently considering adding anti-obesity medicines (sometimes called AOMs or GLPs) to its approved formulary for state and local government employees and I want to state that I am strong in favor of this action. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Obesity is a very serious and expensive challenge and the emerging research shows that genetics and biology play a much bigger role than "willpower" or laziness. [REDACTED]

Myself as a retired state employee along with many of my former public servant patients should have as many options as possible when pursuing healthier living including AOMs, which compared to treating more advanced conditions like heart failure, diabetes, cancer, sleep apnea, can likely save WI money over the long term because we'd be preventing potentially really serious issues BEFORE they occur. We'd also be improving the quality of life of many thousands of state employees who may have tried other methods and not succeeded. The FDA has deemed these medications safe and effective and while there is a cost (which will tend to come down over time), its far more dangerous and expensive NOT to provide access where it could help many good people in our state.

Thank you for considering this important decision and I hope to hear back from you soon.

Sincerely,
Patty Paulson, RN

[REDACTED]



STATE OF WISCONSIN
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December 18, 2023

Dear Ms. Paulson:

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).

While ETF 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 AOMs 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.

At their November 16, 2022, meeting, the Board received a [“Weight Management Analysis”](#) memo and [presentation](#) from Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) staff with a comprehensive review of methods to address overweight and obesity, and the available evidence related to treatments. The presentation and memo included information on approaches addressing overweight and obesity ranging from lifestyle and behavioral change services to medical services and anti-obesity drugs.

At the May 17, 2023, Board meeting, the Board discussed adding weight-loss drugs to the drug formulary for 2024 (see pages 9-10 of ETF’s memo to the Board linked here: <https://etf.wi.gov/boards/groupinsurance/2022/06/30/gib4/direct>). The same statutory restrictions still exist, and no additional research has shown greater cost savings; therefore, the Board was not able to add weight-loss drug coverage for 2024.

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 ETF’s [“Group Insurance Board Meeting Agendas and Materials”](#) webpage about a week prior to the meeting.

Again, thank you for your email and for sharing your weight-loss experience. 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

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