

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Covering weight loss medicines
Date: Friday, December 8, 2023 9:25:15 AM

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Dear ETF:

My name is Atalie Andersen and I am a Nurse Practitioner at the UW Department of Cardiology. I've worked here for over 7 years and appreciate the opportunity to help people improve their health and quality of life. As you likely know, heart disease is among the leading causes of premature death here in Wisconsin and I've long believed that we all need to do more through prevention and healthy living to lessen the burdens of chronic heart disease.

There are many factors impacting heart disease ranging from genetics, exercise/lifestyle, diet, smoking, stress just to name a few. However, obesity is a massive factor and a significant number of my patients are overweight or obese and the problem seems to be getting worse every year.

In conversations with colleagues and in monitoring news coverage, I learned that most anti obesity drugs are not included in the Group Insurance Board's formulary for the tens of thousands of state employees, including those that work for UW, school systems, state government departments and similar. I respectfully believe this is a mistake because we should make as many clinically appropriate options available as possible to as many people as possible.

As I witness on a nearly day to day basis, untreated obesity can lead to very difficult to treat heart, lung, endocrine and other conditions, which in turn can lead to premature death, disability/loss of livelihood and depression. While there are many avenues to treat obesity, the state should be promoting an "all of the above" strategy that includes FDA approved therapeutics that have been shown to be safe and effective. I believe many state employees would benefit immensely from these medicines and using them as part of their care could prevent more serious consequences in the coming decades.

Thank you for reading and I look forward to seeing the state add these medicines as soon as it can.

Best,

Atalie Andersen, NP
UW Health Department of Cardiology.