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## Correspondence Memorandum

**Date:** January 26, 2024

**To:** Group Insurance Board

**From:** Molly Dunks, Disease Management and Wellness Program Manager  
 Office of Strategic Health Policy

**Subject:** Pilot Programs Report and 2025 Recommendations

**The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) requests the Group Insurance Board (Board) approve the 2024 pilot programs for 2025 implementation, and one new pilot program proposed by Network Health.**

**Background**

Pilot programs present an opportunity for health plans and other Group Health Insurance Plan (GHIP) vendors to offer innovative programs that are not currently included in the GHIP Uniform Benefits (UB) or current contract. Additional information about the pilot program policy was shared at the May 18, 2022, meeting ([Ref. GIB | 05.18.22 | 5D](#)).

**Current Pilot Programs**

The Board approved six pilot programs for 2024 at the May 17, 2023, meeting ([Ref. GIB | 05.17.23 | 3D](#)). Table 1 includes a summary of the current pilot programs approved through 2024.

**Table 1. Pilot Programs Approved for 2024**

Vendor	Program	Years Approved for Implementation
Dean Health Plan (DHP)	Acupuncture benefit	2020 – 2024
Navitus/WebMD	<i>It's Your Health: Diabetes</i> (reduced cost sharing for diabetes-related pharmaceuticals)	2019 – 2024
Quartz	Virta Health: Diabetes Management	2024
Quartz	Therapy360	2024
Quartz	Doula Services	2024
Security Health Plan	Omada: Diabetes Management	2024

*Eileen Mallow*

Reviewed and approved by Eileen Mallow, Director, Office of Strategic Health Policy  
 Electronically Signed 02/01/2024

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
GIB	02.21.24	7D

DHP’s acupuncture benefit began in 2020 as an alternate pain management treatment option with a goal to reduce dependency on opioid use. Members can have 10 acupuncture visits per year from in-network providers. Table 2 includes utilization and cost data available to date. Data will be analyzed in 2024 to assess the outcome of the pilot relative to the GHIP Triple Aim principles.

**Table 2. DHP Acupuncture Utilization and Cost Data**

<b>Program Year</b>	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Procedures</b>	<b>Total Paid</b>
<b>2020</b>	351	506	\$64,734
<b>2021</b>	276	392	\$49,096
<b>2022</b>	393	576	\$71,880
<b>2023</b>	434	567	\$68,332

*It’s Your Health: Diabetes* with Navitus and WebMD started in 2019. Non-High Deductible Health Plan subscribers and spouses who complete at least one diabetes management coaching call receive a reduced pharmacy copayment for several anti-diabetic prescription drugs (\$0 for Level One drugs, and the lesser of \$10 or 20% for Level Two drugs). Table 3 shows prescription drug utilization, spending, and cost sharing since 2019.

**Table 3. Prescription Drug Utilization, Spending, and Cost Sharing Change**

	<b>Utilizing Members</b>	<b>Prescriptions Filled</b>	<b>Member Savings</b>
<b>2019</b>	399	2,402	\$83,239
<b>2020</b>	542	6,704	\$92,705
<b>2021</b>	954	7,193	\$228,688
<b>2022</b>	1,297	10,833	\$768,308
<b>2023</b>	1,501	14,128	\$539,555
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,693*</b>	<b>41,252</b>	<b>\$1,712,495</b>

\* This number is total utilizing members, not unique members. For example, if a member filled a prescription through the program in 2022 and 2023, they would be counted twice, once in 2022 and once in 2023.

Merative will conduct further analysis on impact for the *It’s Your Health: Diabetes* program after all medical claims have been processed for 2023 and a report will be provided to the Board. The last analysis provided to the Board in May 2023 indicated participants had some evidence of better healthcare engagement, higher preventive services utilization, and a greater likelihood of maintaining or improving their disease stage compared to those who did not participate in the program ([Ref. GIB | 05.17.23 | 3D](#)).

The remaining four pilot programs for 2024 have just begun, so no data is available. However, all vendors have indicated an interest in continuing the pilot programs through 2025.

### **New Pilot Programs**

The Board received a proposal for one new pilot program for 2025.

The proposal by Network Health is related to remote patient monitoring (RPM). They are proposing a reduction in member cost-sharing to \$0 for RPM visits and devices for the following conditions: obesity, hypertension, sleep apnea, or atrial fibrillation. They are hoping to target members who live in zip codes with higher area deprivation index values, who are also shown to visit the emergency room (ER) more. Reducing this cost share will assist members who have a more difficult time paying for services so they can better manage their condition with the help of RPM and reduce their utilization of the ER.

ETF recommends approving the 2024 pilot programs and the new pilot program proposed for 2025. ETF will work with the vendors to finalize implementation plans for the new Board approved pilot programs and continue monitoring existing programs.

Staff will be at the Board meeting to answer any questions.