From: To:

ETF SMB Board Feedback

Subject:

anti-obesity medication

Date:

Thursday, February 6, 2025 6:02:59 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Group Insurance Board Members,

My name is Amy Mizialko, and I am a special education teacher in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I've worked here for 33 years and am a proud member of the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association. Anti-obesity medication is fundamental to the health of tens of millions of people including me.

I am writing today to respectfully request that this board reconsider its past decision refusing to expand coverage for the latest FDA approved anti-obesity medications (AOMs) to ensure that Wisconsin public employee benefits reflect the importance of our work to the functioning of our state and the quality of life that encourages people to live, work, and raise families here. As you know, Wisconsin is a regional outlier in not providing these benefits to its public employees. Fundamental fairness, public health, future budget savings and competitiveness as an employer of choice should dictate that Wisconsin join its peers in providing AOM coverage where clinically indicated by one's health care provider.

Amy Mizialko, Ph.D.

MTEA Executive Director



STATE OF WISCONSIN Department of Employee Trust Funds

A. John Voelker SECRETARY Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds PO Box 7931 Madison WI 53707-7931 1-877-533-5020 (toll free) Fax 608-267-4549 etf.wi.gov

February 11, 2025

Dr. Amy Mizialko

Dear Dr. Mizialko:

Thank you for your email to the Group Insurance Board (Board) regarding covering antiobesity medications (AOMs).

When considering the addition of any benefit to the Group Health Insurance Program (GHIP), the Board must adhere to Wis. Stat. § 40.03(6)(c) which allows benefits to be added only if mandated by law or if it can be demonstrated that the addition will result in savings. If neither provision is met, the Board must reduce benefits to allow for the addition of new benefits.

At the Board's meetings on <u>August 14, 2024</u>, and <u>November 13, 2024</u>, cost analyses and options were presented, which included increasing member premiums and out-of-pocket costs, to allow the Board to add AOM coverage while still adhering to the statute.

The Board will consider 2026 GHIP changes, including the potential addition of AOM coverage, at its meeting on March 15, 2025. The agenda, memos, and presentations for that meeting will be posted on the Department of Employee Trust Funds' "Group Insurance Board Meeting Agendas and Materials" webpage about a week prior to the meeting.

Again, thank you for your email. 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 Department of Employee Trust Funds