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Patty Medley

I can honestly say that I'm hoping the state continues to cover the cost for this medication. My husband is a type two diabetic, and his doctor is going to be discussing this medication to help him with his diabetic needs in addition to a heart condition that he has, and as a retiree on fixed income, we can't afford to put out a lot of money every month for any medication that we take, so I would really hope that the state continues to cover this medication even though we're retired. This does not mean that we need to have medication's exploited on us. It's bad enough since he went on Medicare that he lost the benefit of Support socks for his legs, before Medicare my Highmark PPO plan covered them post Medicare he cannot get them even with a prescription. I find that to be hideous. It's almost like once you get to a certain age and you retire nobody wants to help the retirees to remain healthy and we stay active for our health and family so it's truly unfair to retirees who are aging.

This is probably gonna be ignored, but I thought I wright it anyway..

Barbara Cook

Although this drug is used for diabetics, which can be very beneficial average for them. We must not use it as simply a weight loss for someone that is not a long-term diabetic with weight problems. Healthcare in Delaware is very well needed not for vanity but for serious illnesses.. it took years to get prescription coverage, now how about Dental for everyone.. not a plan that only covers annual checkups and cleaning

Help for low to medium income, Healthcare is needed for all!!!

E. Navitski

Hello!

I have read that Delaware decided to cover the cost of Ozempic for state employees. It will be a burden on taxpayers, for sure. But I would ask the committee to reconsider coverage for a different reason. Though newly approved drugs are considered safe, I don't think it's completely true with Ozempic and other new weight loss drugs. The list of the side effects is very long and includes depression and thyroid cancer. I would not cover it, because many people will get that side effects, and it will be only worse for them.

With best regards.

Patricia Wilson

I am not a state employee but I am diabetic and I am on the drug Ozempic and I am also a retiree and I pay \$710 every three months for this medication. Why should the taxpayer foot this expensive medication for weight loss? I can see spending it for diabetes but not just for weight loss

Mary Bashtarz

Please stop this! So many DE taxpayers cannot afford health insurance at all! And now this socialist govt wants to force us to pay for overweight drugs? There are no overweight people in DE that cannot afford to feed their families! Lack of food makes people thin. Just stop pandering with our tax money!

Valerie (Unknown Last Name)

Hello to anyone who will listen and pass on to the Governor

My name is Valerie. I am a lifelong Delaware resident and taxpayer and worked for the Federal government for 35 years and ive never been funded by DE taxpayers to include WIC for my son as a single parent... I am also somebody who has struggled with weight loss but changing my diet, without drugs, is how I've managed to get my weight down and keep it down.

I am also diabetic. Less than a year ago my doctor added Trulicity 1x per week to my regimen. Last week, Feb 1, 2024 I called in a prescription (3 months worth) and was told that I can't get it because of the shortage? Dover AFB could fill 1 month, 4 pens at half dosage. Rite Aid won't know anything until Mid February and Express Scripts could fill a month worth half dosage..I dont know how many diabetics are in DE but when I thought how many people are affected, I was really shocked and concerned!

Large people using diabetics medication so they may lose weight or to have weight loss surgery makes no sense! Taxpayers paying for this cost is absolute nonsense! Now I saw on TV an add stating there is a Class Action lawsuit because the people using Ozempic are now having side effects??? Really? Who knew? I mean you take a medication made for diabetics and you are not diabetic and there are side effects? Wow!

Somebody...anybody...please stop the madness! I can't imagine the panic when folks discover there is a serious shortage on this med they need. I almost felt guilty picking up my prescription thinking of someone else who couldnt..Delaware nor any State should be involved in this. Good health is every person's personal responsibility and I know that in this day and time nobody wants to hear that. Make them pay full price and they will figure it out! Just imagine now that many diabetics are State taxpayers and no one is looking out for them...
Respectfully submitted...

Pam Carroll-Solomon

As a tax payer, I am vehemently opposed to this. To cut to the chase: for those people who are not state employees, who's paying for theirs?

Obviously, this (weight loss) is a controversial topic. There are certainly other options for people that would not necessitate being on this drug forever, as recent studies are showing once someone goes off, the weight comes back. Perhaps if we focused on healthy options for food deserts, stop supersizing portions, subsidizing gym memberships as an employee benefit, going after insurance companies to lower prescription drug prices, embracing national health care,

focusing on the underlying cause of obesity, stop glorifying skinny models, etc.
As a taxpayer I want my money to benefit the many, not the few. Let's pay living wages to people, deal with other inequities, save open space.

James Soutar

After reading the cost of weight loss drugs that the state is paying for, I did some research on the drugs. Have you looked at the side effects, as well as the fact that you have to take the drug forever if you want to maintain your weight?

I am opposed to the state covering these drugs, not only for the cost of the drugs, but also for the additional costs of treating the diseases the drug will cause. I have a hard time understanding why the state started covering it in the first place. Were no medical professionals asked about it and you just believed the advertisements? If you want to do something for obese state workers, reimburse them for a fitness membership if they go for at least an hour 3 times/week consistently.

Nora Gleadow

I do agree that coverage of this item should NOT be covered as currently stated in the law, by the state of De; due to the fact that it is a personal decision by the user, not a responsibility of the taxpayers.

Ralph Light

It is ridiculous to burden taxpayers for a weight loss drug for state workers. If they want a drug that is just for cosmetic purposes they need to pay for it themselves!

Amy Penney

Good morning,

As a current State employee, I feel the State does not need to be covering these GLP-1 drugs unless they are for a diagnosed diabetic. Our health care coverage is in crisis already and these drugs are not necessary except for diabetics. It is like covering elective cosmetic surgery! Why should we bear the cost for that? Plus, these drugs have not been tested long enough on people without diabetes to determine their safety- does that not pose a liability to the State as well?

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Tina King

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to you adding weight loss drugs as a covered benefit for SOD employees. We pay enough out of pocket for basic healthcare needs. Health insurance is meant to be used for HEALTH CARE. Weight loss, although it affects one's health, it alone is not health related. It is behavioral related and can be corrected/controlled through proper diet and exercise. These drugs should only be covered for those that need it for diabetes, not because an individual wants to take the easy way out. And in my eyes, that is all it

is. I am disgusted with the fact that you are forcing Delaware employees and taxpayers to pay for ridiculous things like this. People in Delaware need to take responsibility for their own actions. I should not be held accountable for others bad choices. You are not spending OUR money fairly or responsibly. You seriously need to do better!

Michael Morgan

Good morning,

As you can see from my signature line, I am a DMV employee (ID: [REDACTED]). Per the article in the News Journal dated Feb 11, 2024, the committee is expecting to pass on to the employees a 27% rate increase. The article further states, on average state employees received a 31% increase in pay. Well, last year I received a 3% increase and 3% the year before that (UNION). This is BEFORE CPI takes a hit out of my 6% increase.

So, the question I have for the committee is, HOW can I live on even MORE being taken out from my take home pay?

Looking forward to your reply.

Michael "Todd" Morgan