

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

*Department of Human Resource
Management
Office of Health Benefits*

October 14, 2014

Frequently Asked Questions on Same Sex Marriage Available

The legalization of same sex marriage in the Commonwealth has generated a number of questions from Benefits Administrators and employees. Attached are Frequently Asked Questions for your use. As always, if you have a question that does not have an answer shown in the FAQs, please contact us at the email address below or by calling 1-888-642-4414 or (804) 225-3642 in Richmond.

Medicare-Eligible Retiree Group Rate Notification Mailing This Week

The Annual Rate Notification for Medicare-Eligible Retiree Group Participants will start mailing on Wednesday, October 15. All materials that may be included based on individual plan elections are attached and will be posted soon on the DHRM website. Premiums for 2015 are included in the notification and will be posted online soon.

If you have an employee who retires or starts LTD and enrolls in a Medicare-coordinating plan with an effective date before January 1, 2015, or an employee who will retire January 1, 2015 or later, and you have not provided 2015 premium rates and information, please provide them with a copy of these materials to explain plan and premium changes for 2015. Note that there are separate booklets for those enrolled with and without the state program's Medicare Part D outpatient prescription drug coverage.

In addition to the attached materials, those retirees in plans that include the Express Scripts Medicare Part D (prescription drug) coverage will also receive their Annual Notice of Changes directly from Express Scripts.

Of particular note is the discontinuation of the Medicare Complementary/Option I Plan effective January 1, 2015. The increasing premium associated with this grandfathered plan has been presented to participants for consideration for several years. However, those who do not make a plan change prior to January 1 will automatically be moved to the Advantage 65 with Dental/Vision Plan, thereby lowering their premium (as compared to the premium that would have been paid for the Option I Plan in 2015) and improving their benefits. All remaining Option I participants will receive a discrete communication explaining the change, a copy of which is included for your review.

An updated enrollment form will be available soon, but you may use the existing form until the new one is available. A new 2015 Medicare Plan Options brochure will also be posted soon.

Please do not reply to this e-mail. You may send inquiries to the Office of Health Benefits mailbox at ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov.