

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS EXTRA

*Department of Human Resource Management
Office of Health Benefits*

December 12, 2007

Atlantic Anesthesia Leaving Anthem Network at Year's End

Atlantic Anesthesia, the anesthesiology group providing the majority of anesthesia services at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital and Sentara Leigh Hospital, has decided to resign from Anthem's network serving the Commonwealth of Virginia effective December 31, 2007. As a result, Atlantic Anesthesia will no longer be a participating provider with Anthem after that date.

The decision by Atlantic Anesthesia to leave the Anthem network may have financial implications for employees and covered family members in Tidewater Virginia who are planning to have surgery (or other services that require anesthesia) after December 31 at these facilities. To minimize the impact on employees and their families, Anthem will continue to pay for covered services as though Atlantic Anesthesia were still in the network. To protect plan members from additional financial burdens, Anthem will treat Atlantic Anesthesia as a network provider and will not impose any out-of-network penalties on members. However, Atlantic Anesthesia may bill plan members for the difference between Anthem's payment and any amount over and above what Anthem pays as the allowable charge to other in-network anesthesiologists. In addition, Anthem's payment will be mailed directly to the member.

This is an unfortunate situation and as always we appreciate your patience and support. To provide alternatives to COVA Care and COVA HDHP members, attached is a list of Anthem participating anesthesiologists at hospitals and outpatient surgery centers in Eastern Virginia. Also attached is a draft of the letter planned for distribution to state legislators in the Tidewater area.