

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

*Department of Human Resource Management
Office of Health Benefits*

June 1, 2007

Affected Members Notified of Change in Coverage for Some Diabetic Supplies

COVA Care members impacted by the July 1 change in coverage for diabetic blood glucose test strips and meters were notified at their home addresses last month that these supplies will be paid through the outpatient prescription drug benefit. Beginning today, June 1, those affected also qualify for a free glucose monitoring system from preferred manufacturers. A copy of the May letter is attached.

Reminder! -- Retiree Group Policy Changes July 1

As announced in the Dec. 15 issue, effective July 1, 2007, all retiree group enrollees (retirees, survivors and LTD participants) and their covered dependents must be enrolled in a plan based on their Medicare eligibility. Family membership groups may no longer maintain Medicare-primary coverage under the COVA Care plan for their Medicare-eligible family members. All Medicare-eligible family members must be enrolled in one of the Advantage 65 plans if they wish to maintain their supplemental coverage through the state program. However, no family group will be required to pay more than the non-Medicare plan family premium amount. This means that family groups will pay the lesser of the combined Medicare and non-Medicare premium amount for the plans in which all family members are enrolled, or the family premium amount for the non-Medicare plan in which the non-Medicare-eligible family members are enrolled. All affected participants were notified by letter in early May of their July 1 options, and a copy of that correspondence is attached for your information.

Sending HIPAA Certificates and Extended Coverage Election Notices

Now that Open Enrollment has ended, do not forget that health plan members (including employees, spouses and covered dependents) who cease to be covered under the State Health Benefits Program for any reason must be issued a Certificate of Creditable Health Coverage as required by HIPAA.

Remember to send the Extended Coverage (COBRA) Election Notice only when a member has experienced a qualifying event under Extended Coverage, such as termination of employment or loss of dependent child status.

All forms and notices may be found on the DHRM Web site under Resources for Benefits Administrators at www.dhrm.virginia.gov/resources/benefitsadmin/benefitsadmintoc.html.