

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

Department of Human Resource Management Office of Health Benefits

September 8, 2008

Flu Shot Program Offered Again to State Health Plan Members

Free flu shots once again will be available from now until the end of flu season at specific participating COVA Care and COVA HDHP plan chain and independent retail pharmacies. In addition, individual agencies may make arrangements to have a local pharmacy that participates with COVA Care come onsite to provide flu shots at no cost.

Pharmacy Program: Any plan member, including employees, non-Medicare eligible retiree group members, covered spouses and dependents, may present a plan ID card to receive a flu shot at no cost. A list of pharmacies, flyers and a Q&A for each plan is available on the DHRM Web site at www.dhrm.virginia.gov. Note the tabs with names of chains and independents. We will update the lists on the DHRM Web site as pharmacies are added.

- **For COVA Care:** Pharmacy chains and independents this year include CVS, Giant, K-Mart, Kroger, Rite Aid, Safeway, SuperValu, Walgreens, Ukrop's and independent pharmacies in EPIC and Leadernet, among others.
- **For COVA HDHP:** CVS, Farm Fresh, Medicine Shoppe, Ukrop's and Walgreens, among others.

Plan members should also check with their local pharmacy to be sure it is participating in the program. The corporate offices of participating pharmacy chains will communicate to their store locations according to their specific corporate communications guidelines. Each pharmacy location sets up its own clinics and procedures, which may differ within the pharmacy chain.

Agency Arrangements: Agencies that wish to bring a pharmacy onsite to administer flu shots must follow the attached guidelines.

Flu Shots Under the Medical Benefit: All COVA Care and COVA HDHP members may receive flu shots at no cost in their doctor's office covered under the medical routine wellness benefit. Kaiser Permanente HMO plan members have access to free flu shots from their physician or at participating medical centers.

IRS Guidance Changes Regarding Dependents of Noncustodial Parents

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on August 8 issued new guidance regarding health plan and flexible spending account eligibility for dependents of noncustodial parents. According to the new guidance, when biological parents are divorced, the custodial parent no longer must sign a written declaration that they will not claim the child as a dependent on their federal income tax return in order for the child to be eligible for health coverage. The Office of Health Benefits is revising its policy to conform to the new IRS guidance.

New Future Moms Posters Mailed to Agencies

Agency Benefits Administrators were mailed the week of September 2 a supply of the new Future Moms poster, which includes information on the \$300 incentive for expectant mothers to participate in the program. Agencies were sent a supply of posters based on the agency BES count. Please display these posters in high traffic areas at your agency or location. The attached poster will be placed on the DHRM Web site shortly under Health Benefits, For Employees, COVA Care, Wellness Benefits.