

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS EXTRA

Department of Human Resource Management Office of Health Benefits

April 14, 2010

Governor's Budget Amendment on Health Plan Design Changes

Each year after the General Assembly passes or amends the biennial state budget, the Governor has the opportunity to introduce budget amendments prior to the General Assembly budget veto session in April. **If approved by the General Assembly**, budget amendments introduced by Governor McDonnell would result in changes to the state health plan. Below are summaries of the changes for your use in answering employee questions. We will send communications to employees after a final decision from the April 21 reconvened General Assembly session.

- **For COVA Care, COVA Connect and COVA HDHP effective July 1:**
 - Coverage would be excluded for prescription non-sedating antihistamines (NSAs). Many of these medications, including Claritin and Zyrtec, are now available over the counter.
 - Coverage would be excluded for drugs for treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED) such as Viagra, Cialis and Levitra.

- **For COVA Care and COVA Connect effective Jan. 1, 2011:**
 - A 90-day network for maintenance drugs would be introduced that includes mail or participating retail pharmacies.
 - Members taking maintenance drugs for the treatment of chronic conditions would be able to purchase two 30-day supplies of their medication at any network retail pharmacy.
 - After that a 50 percent penalty would apply unless members purchased maintenance drugs at mail order or at a retail pharmacy participating in the 90-day maintenance network.
 - The retail maintenance network drug copayment would be the same as for a 90-day supply of mail order drugs (twice the 30-day retail copayment) and drug tiers would be the same.
 - Maintenance medications include oral contraceptives as well as recurring prescriptions for treatment of chronic conditions such as but not limited to hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, arthritis and heart disease.

The Governor's budget amendments are subject to approval during the General Assembly's veto session on April 21, 2010. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Revised Spotlight Mailing Schedule

Printed copies of the *Spotlight on Benefits* newsletter will be mailed beginning April 16 to all state employees eligible for health benefits. Late-breaking information on national health reform is partially responsible for the delay in distribution. We regret any inconvenience this may cause health plan members. The online version and other Open Enrollment materials may be downloaded and printed from the home page of the DHRM Web site at www.dhrm.virginia.gov. Additional communication on health plan changes will be distributed after April 21 as indicated above.