

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

*Department of Human Resource Management
Office of Health Benefits*

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Behavioral Health Medical Professional Copayment Reduced for July 1

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 requires that mental health and substance abuse benefits be equivalent to medical/surgical benefits with respect to financial requirements and treatment limits.

Based on final regulations issued this year on mental health parity for group health plans, beginning July 1, 2010, **COVA Care and COVA Connect** health plan members will pay less for behavioral health services from a medical professional. The State Health Benefits Program will reduce the plan copayment for psychiatrists to \$25 from the current \$40 effective July 1. As a result, plan members will pay the same \$25 amount for all behavioral health professional services, both medical and non-medical.