

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

*Department of Human Resource Management
Office of Health Benefits*

August 19, 2011

TRICARE Supplement Special Enrollment Begins Next Week

The special two-week enrollment for the voluntary TRICARE supplement starts on Monday, August 22 and ends on Tuesday, September 6. As a reminder, employees and non-Medicare retirees are eligible to enroll if they are military retirees eligible for TRICARE and also eligible for the state health benefits program.

TO ENROLL: Eligible employees and retirees need to complete the appropriate TRICARE Supplement plan enrollment form posted on the DHRM website. A printed copy of the employee form is being distributed at meetings around the state, while the retiree form has been mailed to non-Medicare retiree home addresses. Documentation must be included with the form if dependents are added to coverage. A completed form and documentation should be mailed to the Department of Human Resource Management, Office of Health Benefits, 101 N. 14th Street, 13th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219 and received no later than September 6, 2011. EmployeeDirect will not be available during the special enrollment period.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For information on the TRICARE supplement and the special enrollment, employees and retirees may contact ASI's toll free number at 1-866-637-9911.

Flu Shot Program Planned Again for This Fall

The State Health Benefits Program once again will offer state health plan members free flu shots at participating network pharmacies beginning in early fall. Prescription drug program vendors are currently working to confirm the pharmacies that will be participating in the program. Details will be coming soon. As in previous years, the 2011-12 seasonal flu vaccine will be covered under the wellness and preventive care provisions of the state health benefits program.

If you are a Benefits Administrator with agency locations that include both COVA Care and COVA Connect participants, be sure the pharmacy that conducts your clinic participates with both programs.

Transition in the Office of Health Benefits

The Office of Health Benefits has a new director! Gene Raney, whom most of you know as the Ombudsman for the state health benefits program for more than six years, succeeded Mary Habel on August 1 as Director of State and Local Health Benefits Programs. As many of you are aware, Mary retired after 10 years of state service. We wish her the very best, and also offer our encouragement and support to Gene as he addresses the many challenges the state faces in health care for its employees and retirees.

2011 Health Benefits Systems Guide Available

An updated Health Benefits Systems Guide for Benefits Administrators is now posted on the DHRM Web site under Information Technology, Documentation, and HR Community, Benefits Administration, Resources. The direct link is <http://web1.dhrm.virginia.gov/itech/files/BESvolume1.pdf>.

Medco Introduces A New Smartphone Application

Your online Medco pharmacy has gone high tech and mobile! Please share with your agency employees that there is a new “on-the-go app” for prescription safety alerts, reminders, and potential savings. The new **Medco Pharmacy** app helps members stay on track with taking medications as prescribed. Plus it can be downloaded for free from the VCAST app store!

The new app is available to anyone with a **BlackBerry®** or **Android™** smartphone using the Verizon Wireless network. Go to the VCAST app store[†], search for “Medco Pharmacy” and download it. After downloading, log in with your online www.medco.com user ID and password to open*:

My Rx Choices®

- Look up potential lower-cost prescription options available under your plan and discuss them with your doctor—even while you’re still in the doctor’s office!

My Medicine Cabinet

- View your medications and set reminders for when to take them or notify you when you are running low.
- Get personalized alerts if there’s a possible health risk related to your medications. You can also add over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and supplements to check for possible interactions with your prescriptions.

Prescription ID Card

- Don’t have your prescription ID card in your wallet? No problem. Use your phone to display a virtual card that you can show at the pharmacy.

[†] For BlackBerry users who cannot locate the VCAST app store on your smartphone, go to www.medco.com/bb.

*If you haven’t yet registered on medco.com, **please go to the site to get your medco.com® user ID and password.**