

The EBD Update – Friday, August 10, 2007

A weekly publication by The Employee Benefits Division

***** For Public School Officials and State Agency Representatives *****

Network Change

For members in the Fort Smith area: Effective August 1st, 2007, Western Arkansas Anesthesia in Fort Smith is no longer participating in the Arkansas Blue Cross and Health Advantage networks. Western Arkansas Anesthesia provides anesthesia services to Cooper Ambulatory Surgery Center and St. Edward's Hospital. St. Edward's has employed Certified Register Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) to administer epidurals for maternity patients. The CRNAs are in-network and services provided by CRNSa will be paid to the provider. Claims for services rendered by Western Arkansas Anesthesiologists will be paid to the member at the in-network benefit level.

Should you or your members have specific questions dealing with services or charges, please contact the customer service team at Health Advantage / Arkansas Blue Cross at 1-800-482-8416

Act 1009 is now in Effect

Act 1009 has officially gone into effect. On April 18th and again on May 11th, I provided the details of the Act and how it will impact various operations of EBD, most notably was the implementation of the penalties. Please review the Act for a detailed description of the new regulations.

Here is the link to Act 1009:

https://arbenefits.org/ebd_pages/forms/billAct1009EBD_082007.pdf

To clarify one issue dealing with monthly receipt of information by EBD, if the information is received on or after the first of the month, but postmarked on or before the 25th of the month, the information will not be deemed "Late". We understand that postal service is outside of everyone's control so we will certainly take that into consideration, however, information received by EBD on or after the 1st of the month with a postmark of the 26th or later will be deemed as "Late".

If you have any questions, please contact your EBD Accounting Representatives, Laurie at 501-683-0586, Denise at 501-683-0195, Amy at 501-683-0197, or Leigh Ann at 501-683-0196.

Please share this information with your superintendent and / or agency supervisors as well as any others in your office who deal with Employee Benefits Division.

**** For Public School Officials Only ****

Open Enrollment Question

- Q. If a member fails to enroll in the ARHealth plan during open enrollment, will COBRA be offered?
- A. No. If the employee remains employed and voluntarily drops coverage at open enrollment, COBRA will not be offered
- Q. How do I access the Health Risk Assessment via the phone?
- A. Call 800-763-4674 and follow the voice prompts to complete the survey. Please ensure that you select menu option 2 for a Public School Employee after you have selected your preferred language.
- Q. How do I get a copy of a Benefit Confirmation Form for a member with a wrong address?
- A. Contact us at EBD and we can generate a new form and fax it to you for execution by the member. Please do not wait for the returned mail to be sent to you. That could delay processing and might impact the member's coverage.

**** For State Agency Representative Only ****

Life Insurance Change for the Coming Year

As was mentioned a few months ago, life insurance will no longer be provided by USABLE, but will instead be offered through Minnesota Life. There will be representatives from Minnesota Life at the upcoming meeting at Ferndale. This will give you an opportunity to meet them and also to coordinate enrollment opportunities for the upcoming Open Enrollment.

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