

THE LOCAL CHOICE E-NEWS

Department of Human Resource Management State and Local Health Benefits Programs

December 7, 2011

Walgreens and TLC Prescription Drug Programs

Some employees may have received communications from Walgreens Co. indicating that it will no longer participate with the TLC health plans beginning in 2012. The Local Choice's relationship with Medco for Key Advantage members is stable and secure. Walgreens remains a Medco participating pharmacy. There may be an impact **only on TLC HDHP** members, since Anthem's prescription drug program uses the Express Scripts provider network. Walgreens has decided to end its participation with Express Scripts effective January 1, 2012.

What this may mean for TLC HDHP plan members

Unless an agreement is reached between Express Scripts and Walgreens, TLC HDHP members would need to submit a Prescription Drug Claim Form to Anthem for prescription drug purchases at Walgreens beginning January 1. Even though Walgreens would be a non-participating pharmacy, Anthem's prescription drug program for TLC HDHP would still cover prescriptions from Walgreens.

A letter has been mailed to all TLC HDHP members who used Walgreens in the last six months, including the names and locations of convenient, nearby pharmacies that participate in the pharmacy provider network. It also directs members to the Anthem web site to find other nearby pharmacy locations.

Access to other retail pharmacies within the pharmacy provider network will be available, as the Express Scripts pharmacy network contains more than 56,000 pharmacies without Walgreens. *On average, there is another network pharmacy within one-half mile of a Walgreens pharmacy.*

We will let you know if circumstances change and Walgreens and Express Scripts reach agreement on a new contract. In the meantime, members can continue to receive coverage for their prescription medications from any Walgreens and its sister stores (such as Duane Reade, Happy Harry's, and OptionCare) through December 31, 2011.

Kaiser Permanente to Discontinue Services from GlobalFit Wellness Vendor

All programs and services offered to Kaiser Permanente members by Global Affiliates, Inc., (GlobalFit) will be discontinued as of January 1, 2012. A variety of health and wellness programs and services continue to be available through the *ChooseHealthy*® program offered by American Specialty Health Incorporated (ASH).* A letter about this change has been mailed to TLC employees and non-Medicare eligible retiree group members enrolled in the Kaiser HMO plan.

The *ChooseHealthy* program is available to members at no cost. It offers a directory of credentialed

complementary health care providers, an online store, savings on health products and services, and more. Through the *ChooseHealthy* program, members receive discounts on such services as acupuncture, massage therapy services and chiropractic care. Kaiser Permanente members also have access to *ChooseHealthy* premium programs at no cost, including exercise and meal/nutrition planners, online coaching and health trackers.

For more information, members may visit the Kaiser Permanente web site at www.kp.org/choosehealthy.

* ChooseHealthy is a federally registered trademark of American Specialty Health Incorporated (ASH). Please note that this is a discount program; it is not insurance. Members can access services from any ASH contracted provider; referral from a primary care physician is not required. Members are responsible for paying the discounted fee directly to the contracted provider.