

THE LOCAL CHOICE E-NEWS

Department of Human Resource Management

State and Local Health Benefits Programs

December 2009

COBRA/ARRA Update - Election Notice

Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) last February which offers premium assistance to involuntarily terminated employees who lost coverage from September 1, 2008, through December 31, 2009. For COBRA qualifying events that occur in December, COBRA coverage will not begin until January 1, 2010, which is outside of the covered ARRA period. It is likely that Congress will renew this benefit, but as yet, they have taken no action. The Local Choice will monitor the situation and if there is not an extension to the subsidy TLC will provide updated documents to use if a qualifying event occurs.

Flu Shot Reimbursement Process

Some pharmacies that participate in The Local Choice's flu shot program have failed to process the shots at no cost to our plan members. If employees had to pay for their flu shots at participating pharmacies they will be reimbursed and should follow this process:

- Complete the attached Anthem Claim Form
- Send the form with a receipt from the pharmacy to: Rachel Brooks, Operations Manager, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Mail Drop VA 1003-S142, 2015 Staples Mill Road, Richmond, VA 23230 or fax to (804) 354-4775, Attn: Rachel Brooks.

We will not reimburse members for flu shots received at out-of-network pharmacies or pharmacies that do not participate in The Local Choice's free flu shot program.