

THE LOCAL CHOICE E-NEWS

Department of Human Resource Management State and Local Health Benefits Programs

June 2006

E-Newsletter Developed for TLC Group Benefits Administrators

This inaugural issue of *The Local Choice E-News* represents a change in the way we will be communicating with TLC Group Benefits Administrators based on the input received by a recent survey. You will continue to receive Sequential Memos, which serve as important updates to health benefits program policies. *The Local Choice E-News* will provide from time to time other information not related to policy issues, such as distribution of communications materials, program news, and Open Enrollment periods. As always, your input is appreciated!

New ID Card Order Line Introduced

Employees and non-Medicare eligible retiree group members enrolled in The Local Choice Key Advantage plans and the new TLC HDHP (High Deductible Health Plan) will receive ID cards in late-June for July 1 renewal dates (or in late-September for groups with October 1 renewal dates). As you know, Key Advantage 200, 300, 500 and Expanded members will carry just one ID card for all benefits – medical, dental, behavioral health and prescription drug. Beginning the week of June 12, additional cards or replacement of lost cards for all Key Advantage and HDHP plans may be ordered by calling the new ID Card Order Line toll free at **1-866-587-6713**. When the member calls, they will be asked for their health care ID card number or social security number. Two new cards, regardless of type of membership, will be mailed within seven to 10 days. Attached is a flyer showing the new ID Card Order Line telephone number. Groups with an effective date of July 1 should post this information in visible locations. A separate flyer will be sent in September to groups with an October 1 renewal date.

Zocor® Generic Equivalent Available This Month

Beginning June 23, the cholesterol-lowering drug *Zocor*® will be available in generic form. The Local Choice plan members who switch to the new generic equivalent (simvastatin) should save on their drug costs since simvastatin will be a Tier 1 drug (\$15 for up to a 34 day supply or \$30 for up to a 90-day supply). Because *Zocor*® will have a generic equivalent, members who continue after June 23 to purchase the brand will pay the difference between the cost of the brand and the generic, in addition to their brand copayment. Medco Health Solutions, Inc., will send a letter on June 15 to approximately 800 TLC active and non-Medicare eligible retiree group enrollees who currently take *Zocor*® to inform them of the new generic version's availability. Please encourage your agency's employees to save money by using the new generic rather than

Zocor® or another comparable brand name drug. Attached is a copy of the Medco letter. A brochure about generics may be found on the TLC Web site at www.thelocalchoice.virginia.gov/planinfo/GenericsPrescriptionBrochure.pdf.

New Process for Early Refills of Prescription Drugs

Key Advantage TLC plan members may wish to have early refills of prescription drugs before going on vacation or traveling out of the country. If employees will be away from home for an extended period of time, participating retail pharmacies and the *Medco by Mail* pharmacy service can routinely provide one early refill (up to a 34-day or 90-day supply, as appropriate) to accommodate their travel. However, for a more extended travel period, employees need to complete a *Prescription Drug Refill Exception Request Form* available soon on the TLC Web site.

Employees should complete the form online, print it and send the signed form by fax to (804) 371-0231 or mail it directly to the Department of Human Resource Management. Two weeks should be allowed for processing requests. See the attached form for additional information. DHRM will approve the request and forward it to Medco Health Solutions, Inc. Customer service representatives at Medco will contact the employee to obtain specific medication information and a prior authorization will be entered for each medication requested. The employee will have 14 days to purchase the medication. Employees need to be specific about how much they need, as payment is based on authorization.



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Drug Refill E...