



THE LOCAL CHOICE E-NEWS

Department of Human Resource Management State and Local Health Benefits Programs

June 22, 2021

ARPA COBRA Subsidies

Update to TLC E-News dated May 7, 2021

<http://www.thelocalchoice.virginia.gov/communications/enews/2021/TLCENews050721.pdf>

If you have identified a COBRA participant as an Assistance Eligible Individual (AEI) - please note this information at the top of the TLC enrollment form when submitted to tlc@dhrm.virginia.gov.

COBRA Subsidy Process with Anthem

Billing Method - Group Bill

If your COBRA is set up as group billed, there is no change to your current process. Anthem will continue to bill the group for your COBRA participants and you are expected to pay the bill accordingly.

Billing Method - Direct Bill Subscriber

If your COBRA is set up as direct billed, there will be a manual and temporary change to your current process for AEIs.

Manual Change - Anthem will establish a “new” group billed account for each group which will be used to bill for the AEI. Once the bill is generated on **the 10th of the month**, it will be sent to the group in the manner as it is currently sent.

Temporary Change - This is a temporary change in your billing process. Once the subsidy period ends (September 30, 2021), Anthem will change any COBRA enrollees still enrolled in COBRA back to a direct bill status. **The participant will receive the October bill at the address that is on their BES record.**

1. Any current COBRA enrollee that has been paying their monthly COBRA premium and who has **now been identified** as an AEI may be entitled to a premium refund. Please have the participant contact **Anthem Customer Service at 800-552-2682** for assistance with a refund.

2. Any current COBRA participant that is identified as an AEI and currently set up to pay by Automated Bank Draft (ACH) through Anthem will be temporarily changed to a group bill. Anthem will be able to restart the participant's ACH payment when they are moved back to direct bill status after the end of the subsidy period.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

It is the group's responsibility to timely submit a Group Adjustment form to term coverage for any COBRA participant. Please submit the Group Adjustment Form to tlc@dhrm.virginia.gov.

Please do not reply to this e-mail. You may send inquiries to The Local Choice mailbox at tlc@dhrm.virginia.gov.