



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD

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Roger Rendleman  
Chairman

William L. Ashmore  
CEO

September 2, 2020

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Government Units

FROM: William Ashmore, CEO  
Local Government Health Insurance Board

SUBJECT: Important Changes for the Local Government Health Insurance Plan

At its meeting on September 1, 2020, the Local Government Health Insurance Board (LGHIB) approved several important changes regarding the administration of the Local Government Health Insurance Plan (LGHIP). Changes that are effective January 1, 2021 will be incorporated into the 2021 Administrative Guide.

#### **2021 Premium Rate Increase**

Increase medical and dental monthly premium for active employees and non-Medicare retirees by 5.5%. Each unit will receive its 2021 premium rate memo before the end of the month.

#### **Copay Increases (Effective 1/1/2021)**

- Increase lab copay from \$3 to \$7.50
- Increase generic drug copay from \$10 to \$15
- Increase specialist copay from \$40 to \$50

#### **Increase in Wellness Participation Criteria for Preferred Premium (Effective 1/1/2022)**

Increase the current wellness participation criteria for the preferred premium from 30% or greater to 80% or greater.

#### **Eliminate Wellness Premium Discount (Effective 1/1/2022)**

Eliminate the \$10 wellness screening premium discount. The former \$10 wellness screening discount will be accounted for in the preferred premium rate.

#### **Additional Options to qualify for the Preferred Premium for Units Offering Retiree Coverage (Effective Immediately)**

- Continue the 5% retiree participation requirement, but if a unit sponsors a separate retiree plan, allow retirees enrolled in that separate plan to count toward the 5% participation; or
- Require units to certify to the LGHIB that all employees eligible to retire under LGHIP rules were given the opportunity to enroll in LGHIP retiree coverage. Units must provide the LGHIB a retiree enrollment form or a signed notice declining coverage for each eligible retiree 30 days prior to retirement date.

### **Extend the 2021 Wellness Screening Period**

Due to issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board voted to extend this year's wellness screening period to October 31, 2020. Units who have not met the required wellness participation will now have until October 31, 2020 to screen eligible employees who were not screened from August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020. These screenings will count toward a unit's wellness screening percentage affecting their 2021 rate and wellness discount. Screening forms must be submitted to the LGHIB on or before November 13, 2020.

Employees who have not yet been screened for the 2021 plan year and are screened during the extension period of August 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020, will count toward the 2021 and 2022 plan years.

Employees who have already been screened for the 2021 plan year and are screened during the extension period of August 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020, will only count toward the 2022 plan year.

Units who met the required wellness screening participation by July 31 will receive the applicable 2021 premium rate category or wellness discount earned without regard to the extension period.

Beginning November 1, 2021, the Wellness Screening Period will be November 1- October 31.

### **Enhanced Health Management**

The Board approved the addition of several enhanced health management programs, which include, in addition to BCBS programs, Virta and Naturally Slim. Each program is specifically designed to confront certain issues that numerous LGHIP members face. Virta will address members with Type 2 diabetes and assist them in potentially reversing their diabetic state without medication. Naturally Slim will assist members who are pre-diabetic and obese to lose weight.

These programs are voluntary and offered at no charge to the member. The LGHIB is implementing this program to take an active approach to help members become healthier. More information about these programs will be available soon.

As always, the LGHIB appreciates your participation in our health insurance plan. If we can be of any assistance, please contact our office at (334) 263-8326.