



KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

PHILLIP J. JONES
SECRETARY

MATTHEW A. JONES
UNDERSECRETARY

HUMAN RESOURCE MEMORANDUM NO. 01-045

June 26, 2001

TO: Lt. Governor, Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Assistant Secretaries, Program Managers

FROM: Mary F. Ginn
Human Resources Director

SUBJECT: Group Benefits Update

The legislature in the 2001 regular session adopted several bills involving the State Employees Group Benefits Program. Some of the effects of this legislation are:

- \$** Beginning July 1, 2001, the state subsidy of Group Benefits-sponsored health insurance premiums will be at 58 percent of the PPO plan premium. The state subsidy will increase to 65 percent and then 75 percent over the next two years.
- \$** Additional funding was given to the program in order to avoid further cuts in benefits.
- \$** The State Employees Group Benefits Program will now be known as the Office of Group Benefits.

Members should be aware of other recent changes.

Woman's Hospital (Baton Rouge) recently signed a contract with the Group Benefits PPO program. Therefore, Woman's Hospital will continue to provide PPO services to plan members after July 1, 2001.

Group Benefits has a new pharmacy management company, AdvancePCS. EPO and PPO members will be issued new ID cards for medical and pharmacy benefits. If you do not receive your new cards before they are needed, just give your pharmacy or doctor's office the plan member's social security number and the date of birth for the person receiving services. This is all that is needed to verify coverage.

Please Post and Circulate

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The new state telephone directory has an erroneous phone number listed for Group Benefits. The toll-free number for the Retirement System was printed under the Group Benefits heading. The correct toll-free number for Group Benefits is (800) 272-8451.

If you have questions, please call the Human Resources Office at (225) 342-1675.

NOTE: Information on the State Group Benefits Program, including the Summary of Benefits, Newsletter, HMOs, PPO Directory, Life Insurance, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), etc., is always available on their web site located at <http://www.groupbenefits.org/>.