

Innovations

MyOEBB Benefit Management System

MyOEBB is an online eligibility and enrollment system that allows the employer and plan administrator to manage eligibility. It also gives members access to make their enrollment selections and allows benefit and dependent enrollment and changes online 24/7 during open enrollment without using multiple paper enrollment forms and duplicative administrative processes.

The MyOEBB system was developed in five months (April through August 2008) beginning with the migration of more than 61,000 employee records from educational entities around the state. The open enrollment period concluded with more than 98 percent of all subscribers self-enrolled for benefits using the online system.

Prescription benefits and the Oregon Prescription Drug Program (OPDP)

In 2003, the Oregon Legislature authorized the formation of the OPDP, a prescription drug purchasing pool, to help increase access to prescription drugs by the uninsured and lower costs for state and city governments. The OPDP would meet these goals by pooling prescription drug purchasing power, using evidence-based research to develop a preferred list of lowest cost drugs, securing competitive discounts with pharmacies and bringing transparent pharmacy benefit management services to groups. The OPDP went live on March 1, 2005. In 2006 voters passed Measure 44 that removed the eligibility criteria and opened the program to any resident without adequate prescription drug coverage.

The OPDP now offers group insurance pharmacy benefits and a discount card program for uninsured or underinsured Oregonians. ODS Health Plan included the OPDP in the benefit plan offering available to the OEBB Board during the request for proposal bid process. The OPDP pharmacy panel includes 83 percent of pharmacies in Oregon and is part of a nationwide pharmacy network.

OEBB members may use pharmacies that are not part of the OPDP network. Members are reimbursed for their prescriptions up to the reimbursement rate offered by OPDP. OEBB staff, ODS and OPDP monitor access to pharmacy services via phone calls, emails and surveys as well as through reimbursement requests and claims analyses.

Outreach Efforts

The Board used various stakeholder groups to involve districts in development of the OEGB benefits program. These groups include the Outreach Network, the Administrative Rules Advisory Group and the MyOEGB System Pilot group. The members of these groups are volunteers who provide input on OEGB rules, policies, procedures and systems on behalf of educational entity staff and OEGB members throughout Oregon. OEGB also created and maintains numerous e-mail groups to communicate and gather information.

Comparability Model

The Board, with the assistance of the actuary of its consulting firm Watson Wyatt, developed a comparability model to determine whether the OEGB benefits program met the comparability requirements under Section 17(2), chapter 7, Oregon Laws 2007. This model was applied to all plans offered by districts. It was also used for individual districts who believed their current benefits were not comparable to OEGB's. For example, the model was used for the comparability assessment of the Bethel School District in Eugene. When it was determined that the total district benefit costs would increase under OEGB, one employee group slated to enter OEGB in October 2008 stayed out of OEGB, while another Bethel employee group voluntarily chose to enter OEGB to save money. OEGB adopted a policy that if OEGB benefits are not comparable on a district-wide level to the district's current carrier's rates, then the district or employee group does not have to enter OEGB and an assessment will be repeated the following year.

Focus on Quality

In September 2008, the Board combined the Quality and Plan Design workgroups to create the Strategies on Evidence and Outcomes Workgroup. This workgroup analyzes benefit and plan components to enhance the benefits program.