

The Connection

April 2010

Mission: To provide a quality plan of health and other benefits that are affordable to the employee and the employer

Federal Legislation

Aspects of recently enacted federal legislation on health care will affect group health plans, including those in the PEBB program.

For example, the legislation requires plans to extend coverage for dependent children to age 26. PEBB plans currently offer coverage for qualified dependents to age 24.

Your Benefit Board is working to ensure the program complies with this and other requirements. PEBB's Web site, newsletters and e-mails will keep you up to date on any changes to your benefits.

The Oregon Health Authority will provide more information on the impact of this legislation on Oregon and how the Authority is moving forward to improve health; lower costs; and improve access, quality and reliability of care.

See www.oregon.gov/OHA.

Do you know a child who needs healthcare?

If you know parents who can't afford health insurance for their children, tell them about Oregon's new Healthy Kids program.

Depending on family income, the kids may be eligible for free or low-cost health coverage for doctor visits, dental care, vision care, prescription medicines and more.

Tell them to call 503-540-8463 or 800-452-2146, ext.163 or 186.



Using Your Formulary

Choices and costs

Your **formulary** gives you and your doctor choices in effective, affordable treatment. In PEBB plans, member cost is lowest for generic drugs; higher for brand-name formulary drugs; and highest for non-formulary brand-name drugs. Most drug classes for most common conditions include generic alternatives with a history of good outcomes.



New prescriptions

When your doctor prescribes a new medication, ask questions to make sure it's right for you:



- Why are you prescribing this drug?
- What should I expect from it?
- Is it on my plan's formulary?
- Are there other effective alternatives?

Long-term treatment

If you're taking a medicine long-term, check your formulary before you get a refill. If it's no longer on the list, talk to your doctor about effective alternatives.

Prior authorization

Some prescriptions must be authorized by the plan before they're covered. Reasons include medical necessity, place of therapy, length of therapy, step therapy or number of doses. Your provider can submit a prior-authorization request to the plan, describing why you require the drug. www.providence.org/healthplans/pdfs/pharmacy/priorauthorizationform.pdf

Specialty drugs

Specialty drugs need special handling. This may limit you to 30-day supplies from a specific supplier. For Providence plans, it's Providence Specialty Pharmacy, 800-772-7053, ext. 54535.

Providence Formulary

www.providence.org/healthplans/pdfs/pharmacy/valuebasedformulary.pdf

Kaiser Formulary

http://my.kp.org/nw/pebb/benefits_nw_traditionalHMOPlan.html

oregon.gov/das/pebb

Enroll Any Time in Long Term Care

You don't have to wait until Open Enrollment to enroll in PEBB's long-term care insurance. Eligible employees and certain family members can enroll in this benefit at any time.

Long-term care insurance is different from health insurance. The plan covers care when you need help with activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing and eating.

You can choose coverage for care in a variety of settings – assisted living facilities, adult foster homes and even your own home.

Premiums are based on your age when you enroll and don't increase as you get older.

Get a summary and apply for enrollment: w3.unum.com/enroll/pebb/index.aspx.

Review plan details: www.oregon.gov/DAS/PEBB/docs/SPD/subsections/LongTermCare.pdf.

Connect with Your Benefit Board via e-mail
pebb.connect@state.or.us

Resources

oregon.gov/das/pebb
inquiries.pebb@state.or.us
503-373-1102

Medical Plans

Kaiser Permanente
PEBB Statewide Plan
Providence Choice
VSP (Vision Service Plan)

Mail-order Prescriptions

Kaiser Permanente
PPS
Walgreens
Wellpartner

Dental Plans

Kaiser Permanente
ODS
Willamette Dental

Optional Plans

The Standard Insurance Company
UnumProvident

Other Benefits

FSA: ASIFlex
EAP: Cascade Centers

Health Focus

Keep on Track

Whether you run regular marathons or just walk the dog for exercise, your health plan has resources to help you start and stay on track with a fitness routine.

Members in the Statewide Plan and Providence Choice can sign up for MyLifeBalance. This online program includes a number of personalized activity tools:

- An Activity Planner to help you plan your weekly exercise and activity regimen
- An Activity Tracker that helps you track and calculate your results
- A Walking Tracker & Journal for step counting, goal setting and progress monitoring

Sign up for your free account at lifebalanceprogram.com.

The Healthy Lifestyle Program helps Kaiser Permanente members supercharge their success with a personalized online program to reach their health goals. Register for the program at <https://members.kaiserpermanente.org/kpweb/signonpage.do>.

Quitting Tobacco isn't a Walk in the Park

When you're ready to quit, you don't have to do it by yourself. The Quit For Life® Program will provide the support you need to help make your next quit your last.

It's free. It's confidential. It works. 866.QUIT.4.LIFE (866.784.8454). www.quitnow.net/pebb.

Kaiser Members: Call the "Talk with a Health Coach" service at 503-286-6816 or 866-301-3866; select Option 2. Tell them you're a PEBB member and want the PEBB benefit.

Compare Quality Care

Your Benefit Board wants you to have quality care that improves outcomes.

A new Web site lets you see quality scores for doctors' offices and medical groups in every part of the state. www.partnerforqualitycare.org/selection.php

The site uses quality indicators such as how many people with diabetes get the blood tests they need and how many women get appropriate screenings for breast or cervical cancer.

You can see if your doctor's office performs better than average, average or below average compared with other practices.

The site has data for hundreds of adult primary care providers in offices that have at least four providers.

It also links to helpful guides on getting quality care:

- What to do before, during and after your appointment
- Tips to help you get care that works the best
- Tips for staying healthy
- How to find trustworthy health information on the Web

The site is a program of *Partner for Quality Care: Information for a Healthy Oregon*, managed by Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation.

