



# The Benefits Group, Inc.

Member of Connecticut Health Partnership  
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Your Healthcare Benefit Source

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## Product Highlight: HOMEMAKER Insurance

Stay-at-home parents aren't 'supposed to' get sick, but what happens if they have a serious accident or illness?

Homemaker insurance may be the answer. This product is not disability insurance, but a monthly cash benefit plan. Therefore, there is no income verification (it is not based on earnings) and no financial underwriting. The insured will choose lump sum amount of cash (i.e. \$200,000), then choose a monthly benefit that will be paid until the total cash benefit is exhausted.



How does someone qualify for a claim? It is based on the inability to perform 2 out of 6 activities of daily living (i.e. continence, eating, bathing, dressing, transferring, toileting).

Sample premium: age 40, 90 day waiting period, \$3,000 per month *tax free*, is \$335 per year.

Call your agent for more information.

## Medicare Part B Information

If you have employees that are not currently collecting Social Security benefits, they must enroll in Medicare Part B once they turn 65 or their Social Security Natural Retirement Age (SSNRA).



If they are collecting Social Security currently, then they will be automatically enrolled in Part B.

If they are 62 and begin collecting SS, we suggest the employee contact SS with questions.

For small companies, there are also exceptions. Please contact Social Security for more information.

## HSA's and Taxes



It has come to our attention that there is a glitch in this year's Turbo Tax program.

It does not credit HSA contributions correctly.



Please contact Turbo Tax, a CPA, or tax counselor to make sure your taxes are calculated correctly.

## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Spring means many different things to different people, but for seniors in school everywhere, it means time for **GRADUATION!!** Your employees may have a son or daughter graduating from high school or college and may, or may not, be eligible to continue their medical insurance as a dependent. Please check your policy for details.



If you have questions regarding COBRA for dependents, individual medical policies, or short term medical insurance, please call us.

## Use Your HSA Benefits Wisely

Some of your employees may have already gone through their 2008 HSA plan deductible. If that's the case, then their benefits are now payable at 100%. This might be the time to consult the doctor for anything you may have been putting off. It's a win-win situation; consider it!



## HSA's and Colonoscopies

Be aware! We have had some clients that have had problems getting preventive colonoscopies covered because the doctor codes the bill with a diagnosis, not as preventive, possibly due to previous polyps or other concerns. Please ask your employees to be aware of this and ask their doctors to bill it appropriately.



For non-HSA plans, colonoscopies are subject to outpatient surgery copays..

## Dispose of Rx Bottles Carefully

Don't become a victim of prescription fraud! When you have used the contents of your prescription, peel off the labels before disposing. If you cannot peel the label off, soak it in warm water for several minutes then scrape the label off.

Dumpster divers have been known to fill prescriptions using these discarded bottles. This is cause for concern for several reasons including privacy issues and Rx fraud. These criminals may even have it processed through your insurance which may be credited against your Rx limits or cause problems that may not allow you to fill an Rx for a similar medication.



Be a cautious consumer!

## Important!! Verify Employee Changes on Bills Promptly

Many of the insurance companies that we represent have informed us that they are no longer making changes or terminations retroactive.

Please be sure to review your bills monthly to make sure changes have been made. Please terminate any employees that have left the company, immediately, even when you have offered COBRA. If they choose to elect COBRA, the insurance companies will allow you



to add them back on, but you may not be able to cancel them going back two or three months; your company will be responsible for the premiums. Be aware that it

may take up to two billing cycles to see the changes recorded. Also, we do not receive copies of your bills, so it is imperative that you review them for accuracy monthly.

Please also remember to allow enough time for mailing and posting of your premium payments. If your check is not received by the end of the month, coverage will be cancelled and notices will be sent directly to the employees.

## HSA Limits - Over Age 65

If you have employees that are over age 65, they are no longer eligible for HSA contributions.

Also, Rx's are no longer creditable and they must elect a Medicare D plan.

