



The Benefits Group, Inc.

Member of Connecticut Health Partnership

Your Healthcare Benefit Source

Celebrating our 15th Anniversary in 2007!

MAR/APR 2007

NEW REFERRAL PROGRAM

The Benefits Group would like to introduce you to our new referral program. It is our way of thanking you for referring us to your business associates, friends and relatives.

Here's how it works; it's easy! When you make a referral to The Benefits Group that results in a line of coverage being sold, we will give you an American Express gift card.

Please remember that they can use our toll free number to contact us, 1-877-250-7880.

Thank you for your business!



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.

HSA Changes for 2007

The IRS announced their annual changes for HSA plans:



Deductible minimums are \$1,100 for individuals and \$2,200 for families.

Out of Pocket maximums are \$5,500 for individuals and \$11,000 for families.

Contribution Maximums are \$2,850 for individuals and \$5,650 for families.

Important information re: *rollovers*.

In the past, rollovers were not permitted into an HSA from a qualified retirement plan, including an IRA.

This change permits a *one time* tax free irrevocable rollover from an IRA into an HSA. However, the rollover cannot exceed the HSA contribution limit for the year.



Please call your agent with questions.

Anthem's Individual TONIK Health Plan

Many employers and employees have been inquiring about Anthem's new individual health plan called TONIK. You can find information online at www.tonikhealth.com for a descriptions of the plans, or by contacting your agent.

This is a plan designed for young, healthy individuals that need medical coverage. It even provides some coverage for vision and dental, but not for maternity.

If your employees have dependents, especially those graduating from school, that are interested and decide to apply online, *please* ask them to include our agency information. If they need our agency code, email, or anything else, please give them our toll free number and ask them to call us at 1-877-250-7880.



Don't forget to add new dependents!

Most insurance companies allow 31 days to add new dependents to medical and dental coverage after a birth, marriage, or adoption. If applications are not submitted in a timely manner, then coverage may be reduced, delayed or declined.

www.thebenefitsgroupofct.com

We are in the process of updating and improving our website. Thank you for your suggestions in the past, but if you have more, please let us know!



Anthem Billing Procedures

It seems that time flies by quicker than ever! Before you know it, you have received your Anthem bill and it's the end of the month in which it's due. Please remember that the premiums are due the first of the month in which you are billed (ie. the April bill is due the 1st, not the 30th). Coverage is be paid for in advance, not in arrears.

Therefore, we would like to remind you of their procedures. If your premium is not received by the 18th of the month, an "Intent to Cancel" letter is automatically generated. It advises that premium has not been received, therefore, they expect that you intend to cancel. Coverage will be cancelled at the end of the month if it is not received by then and you have not contacted your billing representative to make arrangements.

Once the coverage is cancelled, Anthem sends a letter to each employee, in accordance with state law, to offer a direct pay insurance option, since they will no longer be covered.

To avoid this situation, please mail your by the first of the month that it's due to allow for mail time and processing time.

Checks, including express mail, should be sent to: FISC, 160 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04243, not to North Haven, CT. Please include your group number on the check and always enclose the billing statement.

Good News re: Life Insurance

North American Company for Life and Health has recently announced a restructuring of their non-smoker term life insurance rates and have **LOWERED** them across the board.

You may have considered purchasing an individual life insurance policy to protect your family against your untimely death to help pay for funeral costs, estate taxes, education and mortgages. Well, now is the time!

Here are sample annual rates for 10 and 15 year guarantee premiums at the preferred nonsmoker rate classification for \$250,000 of coverage:

	10 year term	15 year term
Male age 35	\$140	\$170
Female age 35	\$130	\$158
Male age 45	\$265	\$343
Female age 45	\$228	\$278

The underwriting process takes approximately two months. A paramedical exam and lab work are required and done at your convenience. Call your agent for a free rate comparison chart.

BE A GOOD PATIENT

What does being a good patient mean? Telling your doctor the truth about your health!

By being completely truthful with your doctor allows them to provide you with the best treatment and advice. What do patients bend the truth about the most? How much they smoke or drink, how much they exercise and if they take their medicine as prescribed. What patients may not realize is that those 'white lies' can lead to expensive diagnostic procedures, unnecessary trips and copays for specialists and could even have life threatening results. A patient that fails to tell a treating physician that they are taking anti-anxiety Rx (because they are embarrassed) may be prescribed a pain killer that has a toxic interaction.

Doctors have pretty much 'heard it all'. Don't be embarrassed or ashamed by a condition you think you might have.

Also, don't wait to go to the doctor if you have an illness that is not getting better with over the counter medications. Waiting to see a doctor because you are afraid of what he/she might say could be delaying the time that you can be treated and may lead to a worse condition. You know your body better than anyone else—listen to it, then tell it (all) to your doctor.