

Annual Enrollment Offers Chance to Review Your Insurance Choices

By Pamela Lewis, Public Affairs

It's that time of year again — the time to scrutinize your insurance choices available through the UT System Benefits Office. Have your needs changed? Is a former dependent no longer your responsibility?

Or has a new dependent joined your family? These and other questions should be considered as you look at the options available to you.

Don't forget, if you have questions about

one or more of the insurance offerings, the UT Health Science Center Benefits Office (check the A-Z directory on the health science center home page) will be happy to help you or refer you to someone at UT System who

can provide more information. The answers to some of your questions may be available in the Benefits Web page's Frequently Asked Questions, so be sure to check them out.

UT SELECT PPO Costs for FY2007

The UT SELECT PPO claims during the 2006 fiscal year showed a 10 percent increase. However, The University of Texas System has added funds to monies provided by the state, so premium rates for the UT SELECT PPO plan coverage will increase only 5.5 percent for FY2007. UT Select is administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas.

UT Select PPO Monthly Premiums: What It Really Costs

The chart shows the monthly premium cost for a full-time employee and/or a retired employee. Monthly premium cost includes premium sharing from the State of Texas and UT System plus your monthly out-of-pocket cost. The rates include the cost of Basic Life Insurance of \$10,000 and Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) of \$10,000 for employee only or Basic Life Insurance of \$3,000 for retiree only.

Areas of Availability: State of Texas, Nationwide, Worldwide	Monthly Premium Cost	Monthly Premium Sharing Paid by the State and UT	Your Monthly Out-of-Pocket Cost	Comment
UT SELECT: Employee/Retiree Only	\$348.35	\$348.35	\$0	State and UT pay 100% of the premium for the full-time employee/retiree and 50% of the dependent portion of the premium.
UT SELECT: Employee/Retiree & Spouse	\$680.69	\$530.82	\$149.87	
UT SELECT: Employee/Retiree & Child(ren)	\$621.84	\$465.09	\$156.75	
UT SELECT: Employee/Retiree & Family	\$943.80	\$648.65	\$295.15	

HMO Blue Texas

An HMO health plan option (HMO Blue Texas) will be offered to members in the locations currently being served for FY 2007. However, due to a significant increase in costs associated with providing benefits under the HMO plan during the first nine months of FY2006, changes to the HMO Blue Texas health plan must be implemented.

- Depending upon where you reside, there may be a new out-of-pocket cost for the employees and retirees enrolled in HMO Blue Texas because more money cannot be spent on HMO Blue Texas than is appropriated to spend on UT SELECT. Therefore, the increased cost of the HMO must be passed on to the employee/retiree.
- Employees and retirees currently enrolled in the HMO must re-enroll in HMO Blue Texas to continue to be enrolled in the HMO option for fiscal year 2007.

- HMO in FY2008? It is unlikely the HMO Blue Texas health plan will be available to employees and retirees after the 2007 fiscal year due to increasing rate of costs of the HMO. Employees and retirees should consider these new developments while making their health plan elections for FY2007.
- Grandchild coverage? Employees and retired employees who cover a grandchild on the HMO Blue plan should consult with your Benefits Office or the UT System Office of Employee Benefits to learn about eligibility criteria for the UT SELECT plan prior to making final Annual Enrollment elections.

HMO Blue Texas Premium Rates

Active employees: includes medical, \$10,000 basic term life, and \$10,000 Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment; retired employees: includes medical and \$3,000 basic term life.

HMO Blue Texas Area	Subscriber Only	Subscriber & Spouse	Subscriber & Child(ren)	Subscriber & Family
Austin	\$25.45	\$222.33	\$225.92	\$408.84
Dallas/Ft.Worth	\$12.15	\$192.97	\$198.66	\$366.15
El Paso	\$0.00	\$152.01	\$158.99	\$299.38
Houston/Galveston	\$40.99	\$249.25	\$250.04	\$444.14
San Antonio	\$26.87	\$198.59	\$200.71	\$360.44
Corpus Christi	\$0.00	\$163.38	\$170.88	\$321.75

Personal Health Manager for HMO Blue Members

HMO Blue Texas members now can access online resources and tools to help in setting goals and improving your health.

- Key features of the Personal Health Manager include the ability to:
- Complete a health risk assessment to evaluate your personal health status
 - Request fitness and weight loss advice from a team of personal trainers at Ask A Trainer
 - Ask registered dieticians for nutrition advice with Ask A Dietician
 - Receive help managing stress, workplace conflicts and other issues with Ask A Life Coach
 - Ask registered nurses health-related questions online with the Ask A Nurse feature
 - Set up a personal health record to keep track of and manage health information within one secure Web location
 - Receive targeted wellness information via e-mail to help manage specific medical conditions, including alerts for screening tests, and set up reminders for medical appointments and medication refills
 - Access the online health content, including wellness tracking tools, videos and interactive tutorials

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Is Your Team a STAR Team?

By Pamela Lewis, Public Affairs

Creativity, passion, meaning and recognition — throughout the UT Health Science Center are workgroups, teams and departments that have become leaders in empowering creative solutions, engendering passion in their members and offering their members a reason to get up and come to work with smiles on their faces and the knowledge that their daily work is meaningful to themselves and the community at large.

And those are the kinds of teams that the WorkLife Council and the WorkLife Program want to know about. They are the sponsors of a new annual cash award — the

STAR Team Award — “which we see as being on a par with the President’s Mentoring Awards and the Michael J. Jimenez Leadership Award,” says Sherry Wilson, director of the

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Employee Assistance and WorkLife Programs.

These teams can provide models of excellence to other teams at the health science center that may be struggling to work together in a cohesive, creative and empowering way.

“The award will be given to the winner at

the annual STAR Awards Luncheon each year, and the goal is to utilize the prize money to enhance the team’s work/life balance, in whatever way the team members deem fit within university guidelines,” Wilson said.

“That’s why the prize is a team award, not an individual award, in that the whole team will decide how to best spend it. The WorkLife Program and WorkLife Council want to reward those teams who come to work every day and make this university an outstanding place to work,” Wilson added. “I can’t think of a better use of our budgetary funds than to recognize such outstanding

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Sherry Wilson

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Tee Up for Student Scholarships

Join tournament chair David W. Mercer, M.D., professor of surgery at the UT Medical School, in raising funds to benefit students at our six schools. The 14th Annual UT Health Science Center Scholarship Golf Classic will take place Monday, Sept. 25, at Timber Creek Golf Club. Tee time is 9 a.m. Individual golfers or foursomes are welcome.

To date the tournament has funded more than 268 scholarships totaling more than \$403,000. Last year’s event added a record \$78,000 to scholarship funds.

Visit <http://www.uthouston.edu/community/golf/index.html> to learn more.



David W. Mercer, M.D.



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