

Annual Enrollment Offers Chance to Review Your Insurance Choices

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- Access information on exercise, nutrition and lifestyle issues in the For Your Health section. To access these available resources, log into Blue Access for Members at <http://www.bcbstx.com/ut> and click on the Personal Health Manager link.

Using UT FLEX Lowers Your Taxes

UT FLEX Flexible Spending Accounts allow you to set aside money from your paycheck, before any taxes are deducted, to pay for eligible out-of-pocket health care and dependent day care expenses incurred by you and/or your family members. Since you do not pay taxes on the money set aside in your UT FLEX account(s), your spendable income will increase. You never pay taxes on the contributions or the withdrawals you make.

UT FLEX is an optional, no-cost benefit available to all eligible employees of UT.

Regardless of your income level, everyone can save with UT FLEX. Even if you don't have health insurance expenses:

- you will probably buy over-the-counter medicines and supplies, like cold medicines, aspirin and band-aids,
- you or an eligible family member may need a new pair of glasses or contact lenses, or
- maybe it's time for a dental cleaning or a routine physical exam.

To learn more about UT FLEX, visit <http://www.utsystem.edu/benefits/utflex>, contact the Benefits Office or PayFlex Systems Inc. at (866) 887-3539.

Assurant Dental Specialty Benefit

Assurant Dental's Specialty Benefit (SB) offers three options when a member seeks treatment from a specialty dentist. A referral from your primary general dentist is not necessary to seek treatment from a specialty dentist.

Option One, Best Benefit: Seek treatment by an SB Plan Specialty Dentist including in-network endodontists, periodontists or oral surgeons who accept the SB co-payment schedule:

- For services listed on the SB co-payment schedule, you pay a specific co-pay, considerably lower than the dentist's normal retail charge, for the service.
- For procedures not listed on the SB co-payment schedule, you will receive a 25 percent discount (15 percent discount for endodontist) off the specialty dentist's normal retail charge. This includes a 25 percent discount on orthodontic and pedodontic services.

Option Two: Treatment from a network specialty dentist who does not participate in the SB plan, provides a flat 25 percent discount on all procedures except for endodontist work, which provides a 15 percent discount.

Option Three: With treatment by an out-of-network specialty dentist, you can still receive a benefit under the plan for procedures listed in the Maximum Non-Plan Specialty Reimbursement column. No benefits are available for services not listed on the SB Schedule.

- At the time of service, you pay the specialty dentist's normal retail charge for the services performed.
- You submit a claim to Assurant Employee Benefits to be reimbursed.
- If the procedure is listed on the SB Schedule, you will be reimbursed the amount shown in the Maximum Non-Plan Specialty Reimbursement list or the amount charged by the specialty dentist for the procedure, whichever is less.
- An annual maximum of \$2,000 applies.

Evidence of Insurability Forms Go Electronic

Evidence of Insurability (EOI) is the record of a person's past and current health events. The insurability record is used by insurance companies to verify that a person meets the definition of good health.

During annual enrollment, which ends July 31, you may have to complete an EOI form if you are:

- adding dependents to medical coverage outside the initial 31-day benefit period,
- making changes to your life insurance coverage,
- enrolling in short-term and/or long-term disability coverage, or
- adding long-term care.

If EOI is required for you or your eligible dependents (except for CNA Long-Term Care, since their eligibility statement is contained in the application), you must fill out your EOI form electronically in UT TOUCH. After answering all questions on the EOI online form, you must print your completed EOI form and then mail it to the specific insurance provider.

New Incentive for Special Beginnings Participants

Special Beginnings is the prenatal program offered to participants in UT SELECT and HMO Blue to aid mothers through pregnancy. When you voluntarily enroll in Special Beginnings, you have access to a nurse case manager who assesses health and lifestyle factors and provides you with guidance on prenatal care. In addition, the nurse case manager will provide you with information and support through frequent follow-up calls, from pregnancy to six weeks after delivery.

Beginning now, mothers-to-be who enroll during their first trimester and complete the Special Beginnings program will receive a \$50 Target gift card from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas.

To enroll or ask questions about the program, call toll-free, 1-800-462-3275.

Medco Savings Advisor

Beginning March 1, UT SELECT members were given access to Savings Advisor, a dynamic new tool available at <http://www.medco.com> designed to help members save on their prescriptions. With Savings Advisor members can easily identify potential cost-saving alternatives for their current prescriptions — or for a prescription they may need in the future. The Savings Advisor results include costs for both brand-name and generic medications, plus therapeutic alternatives.

Members can print the information to talk with their doctor about the cost-savings opportunities. In addition, members can print a fax form their doctor can use to request a new prescription.

Expanded Retirement Program Investment Options Available Sept. 1

UT System has selected six vendors to provide voluntary retirement products and services for all UT System Retirement Programs. The new products will be available on Sept. 1, 2006. The six vendors are:

- AIG VALIC,
- Fidelity Investments,
- ING,
- Lincoln Financial Group,
- MetLife Resources, and
- TIAA-CREF.

As a participant in the UT System Retirement Programs, you will enjoy substantial decreases in product costs, expanded investment options and enhanced investment services. The vendors will offer an expansive list of mutual funds and variable and fixed annuity products. Several vendors also will provide investment options in partnership with The Vanguard Group, American Funds, T. Rowe Price and other mutual fund families. A complete listing of investment options is being compiled and will be available soon.

If you are participating with a vendor that is not listed above, you are not required to change vendors at this time. The vendors who were not selected will be given an opportunity to continue to receive contributions in a "grandfathered" status. UT System will provide more detailed information on this topic in November 2006.

Be sure to check out the Retirement Programs Web site throughout the summer and fall at <http://www.utretirement.utsystem.edu> for updated information. ★

For More Benefits Information ...

Additional information about your benefits plans and contact information for the plan sponsors and institution benefits offices is available at <http://www.utsystem.edu/benefits/contacts.asp#1>.

★ ★ ★ Stars ★ ★ ★

Students

★ **Meenal Sinha**, a student at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, has won the 2006 Scholarship in Biomedical Communication from the Southwest Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association for the essay, "Complement Anaphylatoxins: Novel Therapeutic Targets for Allergic Asthma." Winners receive a check for \$500, a certificate of recognition from the American Medical Writers Association Southwest chapter, and a one-year membership in AMWA.

★ **Mary Anne Vincent**, a first-year D.S.N. student at the School of Nursing, presented the poster "Porcine Stress Hormone Circadian Rhythms in Intensive Care" at the 10th Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Biological Rhythms in Sandestin, Fla., May 21-25. Co-authors are Sandra K. Hanneman, Ph.D., associate professor, and Nikhil Padhye, Ph.D., assistant professor, both in the Department of Acute and Continuing Care. Vincent presented the cortisol and catecholamine data from "Biorhythms during mechanical ventilation and weaning," a NIH-funded study awarded previously to Hanneman.

★ **Shannan Hamlin**, D.S.N. candidate at the School of Nursing, received the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses' 2006 Mentorship Grant for her dissertation research, "Multi-site randomized clinical trial of horizontal positioning to prevent and treat pulmonary complications in mechanically ventilated patients: Pilot study and hemodynamic substudy." This singular, annual award of \$10,000 provides research support for a novice researcher directed by a mentor with strong research experience in the area of the proposed investigation.

The multi-site randomized clinical trial will serve as the framework for Hamlin's research: a time-series design of hemodynamic response to manual and automated lateral rotation.

Residents

★ **Grace E. Lee**, D.D.S., prosthodontic resident, won second place in the specialist category during the Star of the South dental meeting for "Comparative Retentive Force of Denture Acrylic Resins to Chromium Cobalt Test Frameworks using Different Acrylic Retention Designs and a Metal Primer."

Faculty

★ **Richard J. Andrassy**, M.D., has been named the Distinguished Houston Surgeon for 2006 by the Houston Surgical Society. Andrassy, associate dean for clinical affairs at the Medical School, received the award May 10 during a dinner at Trevisio's Restaurant.

"Dr. Andrassy has achieved local and national distinction in surgical treatment of pediatric tumors, with special emphasis on surgical nutritional support, and related physiologic and immune responses to major trauma," said Kamal G. Khalil, M.D., president of the Houston Surgical Society.

★ **James C. Grotta**, M.D., professor of neurology and director of the Stroke Program at the Medical School, was awarded the American Heart Association's prestigious "Physician of the Year" Award, April 7, during the organization's annual Volunteer Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.



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DEADLINES

Submit information to be considered for publication in *The Leader* by the 15th of the month one month prior to the desired time of publication. Requests for feature articles require a longer lead time and will receive strategic consideration. Send electronic information in Word format (*no PDFs or posters*) and digital photos as unedited, high-resolution images at 300 dpi or better. E-mail to Pamela.Lewis@uth.tmc.edu. Include a contact name, phone number and e-mail address. Mail hard copy to *The Leader*, c/o Pamela Lewis, Office of Public Affairs, University Center Tower, 1200, or fax to (713) 500-3037. For information regarding *The Leader*, call Pamela Lewis at (713) 500-3040.

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