

## Check Your Insurance Coverage – Changes, Re-enrollments Due by July 31

By Pamela Lewis, *Institutional Advancement*

Did you check that information e-mailed to you in late June from the UT System Office of Employee Benefits (OEB)? July is nearing its end and benefits-eligible employees and faculty have only a few more days — through Tuesday, July 31 — to make any needed changes to university-supported or -sponsored insurance coverage and UT Flex accounts.

New Benefit ID numbers (BID) have been issued to all benefits-eligible employees in an effort to eliminate unnecessary use of Social Security numbers. The BID will be your universal number used to identify you to OEB insurance vendors and will be used instead of your Social Security number to log on to UT Touch and make your Annual Enrollment selections. It also will be the number used for accessing benefit information when contacting customer service personnel with the various plans. Please refer to the OEB Summer Newsletter online (<http://www.utsystem.edu/benefits/newsletter/>) for more information about the BID and changes to vendor identification cards and Web sites.

In addition, you should have received your annual enrollment coverage option letter and PIN by e-mail during the last few days of June or the first few days of July. It details the coverage you have in the current FY2007 and provides information on the options available to you for FY 2008, beginning Sept. 1.

Perhaps the biggest change to health insurance coverage is that the HMO option is no longer available mainly due to rising costs associated with managed care plans. All benefits-eligible employees' medical

coverage will be through UT Select PPO plan.

If you are currently enrolled in HMO Blue Texas, you will automatically be moved into the UT Select plan, at the same coverage level, for the FY2008 plan year which begins on Sept. 1.

There will be a slight increase (6 percent) in UT Select premiums for the FY2008 plan year.

Actual plan trend is in the 9-10 percent range.

The 3-4 percent difference in the trend and premium increase will be funded from changes to the prescription drug co-payment and from reserve funds.

To help maintain lower out-of-pocket premiums under the UT Select medical plan, there will be increases in the co-payments for the Pharmacy benefits under UT Select, administered by Medco Health Solutions.

Retail co-payments will increase by \$5 for the preferred and non-preferred categories which result in benefits of

- \$10 Co-Payment Generic Brands
  - \$30 Co-Payment Preferred Brands
  - \$45 Co-Payment Non-Preferred Brands
- Mail Order Pharmacy co-payments will increase:
- \$75 Co-Payment Preferred Brands
  - \$112.50 Co-Payment Non-Preferred Brands
  - \$20 Co-Payment Generic Brands co-pay will not increase

If you have not been able to attend one of the annual enrollment meetings, you can view the PowerPoint presentation from those sessions at [http://www.uthouston.edu/mass\\_info/AEfy07-08\\_bw.ppt](http://www.uthouston.edu/mass_info/AEfy07-08_bw.ppt). ★

### International Travel & Health Issues

When traveling abroad, coverage is provided for your medical needs through your UT Select program. However, additional services are available through the UT System-wide International SOS program. This is a comprehensive, 24-hour medical response organization that provides international assistance services worldwide through the use of multilingual Alarm Centers on duty 24/7.

International SOS responds to calls for help and advice from students, travelers and expatriates, managing the simplest task, such as a doctor referral, to the most complex, such as emergency evacuation.

While membership is included for no charge when traveling abroad on university business, it also is available at a discount when traveling for a personal trip. Contact the Auxiliary Enterprises Travel Office to receive a membership card.

All University-related travel abroad that is not booked using one of the university's contracted travel agencies should be reported to International SOS in advance. This can be done via the UT System SOS portal at <http://www.internationalsos.com> (use UT System Membership # 11BSGC000037 to log on).

### Basic Coverage Package

UT provides eligible employees with the following basic coverage:

- UT Select Health Plan, with Prescription Drug Coverage (Employee only)
- \$10,000 Basic Group Life Insurance (Employee only)
- \$10,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance (Employee only)

#### Optional Coverage

You may select the following Optional Coverage for you and your eligible dependents:

- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- Voluntary Group Term Life Insurance Coverage (in addition to the Basic Group Term Life Insurance)
- Voluntary Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance (in addition to the Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance)
- Short Term Disability Insurance (for employees only)
- Long Term Disability Insurance (for employees only)
- Long Term Care
- UT FLEX Medical Expense Reimbursement Account
- UT FLEX Day Care Reimbursement Account

### Benefits Tips

#### Did you know?

- The State's contributions to retirement matching are increasing with the start of the new fiscal year, Sept. 1, for both the Teacher Retirement System and Optional Retirement Program.
- You can give yourself additional take-home pay by enrolling or re-enrolling in UT Flex for medical expense reimbursement and/or for day care expenses.
- New and enhanced benefits are being offered with CNA Long Term Care insurance.
- UT Retirement Manager is for anyone interested in saving additional monies for retirement. Ask benefits personnel about this program. ★

## Administrative Changes Take Place around Health Science Center

### Medical School



Dr. Michael Bungo

Medical School Interim Dean Jerry Wolinsky announced that **Michael Bungo, M.D.**, vice dean for clinical affairs, has decided to step down from this role to return to his first love: teaching and clinical care in cardiology. He will return full time to his position of professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiology.

Dr. Bungo came to the Medical School

in 2002 to serve as chief of staff of LBJ General Hospital. His role expanded into medical administration in 2006.

"Dr. Bungo has served the school with insight and commitment. I will continue to seek his counsel as he pursues his interests in cardiology and aerospace medicine," Wolinsky said.

One of Dr. Bungo's main projects and responsibilities was medical billing compliance. Brent King, M.D., interim chief operating officer, remains the designated responsible party for health care billing compliance for the institution, which includes coordination of compliance activities at the Medical School.

### SPH San Antonio Regional Campus



Sharon Cooper, Ph.D.

**Sharon Cooper, Ph.D.**, became dean of The University of Texas School of Public Health's San Antonio Regional Campus, July 1.

Dr. Cooper returns to the UT School of Public Health after serving as a faculty member from 1985 to 2002, and as assistant dean for academic affairs from 1999 to 2001. She most recently was professor and head of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Texas A&M

University Rural School of Public Health.

Announcing her appointment, UT School of Public Health Dean Guy S. Parcel, Ph.D., said, "Dr. Cooper was not only a student here, but she also was a faculty member here for 12 years — and, during her tenure at Texas A&M, she continued collaborating with the faculty here, maintaining her orange and white connections."

Dr. Cooper is a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology, and she has been a consultant for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and a reviewer for a several professional journals.

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### Internal Communications Changes Coming

By Pamela Lewis, *Institutional Advancement*

Changes in how we communicate internally at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston will take place throughout the summer and into the fall. Editorial and Web members of the Communications Team are working with Information Services and other areas of the university to establish an internal intranet, which is tentatively scheduled to go live in October. The intranet will serve as the university's internal portal to news, features and other useful information from all areas of the health science center.

Separating internal and external content on the Web is triggering a design for the intranet and a redesign of the public Web site incorporating principles of usability. This is a cooperative project involving Institutional Advancement, IT, Medical School Communications, School of Health Information Sciences, and the Web Council.

As part of this change, *The Leader Update* will move to the intranet, and its content will be broadened and deepened to replace the printed newspaper, *The Leader*, which will cease publication with this combined

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