



University of Michigan Retirees Association

Volume 11, No. 1

September 2007

Social Hour Programs, Fall 2007

September 20: Laura Rubin, Executive Director of the Huron River Watershed Council, will discuss "The State of the Huron." Questions and comments from members will be welcomed.

October 11: The October UMRA meeting is traditionally our Annual Meeting. Following reports by the President and Treasurer, elections of officers and Board members for 2008 will be held. Finally, there will be a special presentation by Justine Bykowski, of the Housing Bureau for Seniors, entitled "Who Pays for Long-Term Care?"

November 8: "University of Michigan—Exploring the Blue Yonder," a program is to be presented by Dr Thomas Zurbuchen, Assoc. Prof. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences and of Aerospace Engineering.

The M-Healthy Focus on Medicines Program

This past spring the Focus on Medicines Program was created for University employees, retirees, dependents and survivors who take nine or more prescription medications. The program has several goals: to improve health, reduce medication-related health risks, contain costs for both members of the U-M community and the University itself, and to allow people to learn more about their medicines. The program will begin with the approximately 3,000 people who have received prescriptions for nine or more prescription medications in recent months. The risk of drug-related problems is greater among people who have many different prescriptions for medicines, especially if they also take nonprescription medicines or dietary supplements such as vitamins or herbal products. The Program has two main parts: 1) a cost-saving initiative - a review of each person's entire list of current prescription medicines that will identify opportunities for cost savings such as use of a generic equivalent or a pill that can be split; and 2) a comprehensive medication review with an experienced U-M pharmacist to look for opportunities to improve the safety and effectiveness of treatments. For example, the pharmacist might identify possible drug interactions, more effective or safer drug options, and opportunities to reduce the number of medicines or to add other preventive drugs.

The Focus on Medicines Program is being funded in part by the U-M Human Resources and Affirmative Action office, which administers the U-M prescription drug plan through a contract with SXC Health Solutions. It is being conducted by the U-M College of Pharmacy. If you would like to learn more about the Focus on Medicines Program or to receive a brochure that describes this program please call (734) 936-3044 or toll-free (866) 965-MEDS (866-965-6337) or e-mail FocusonMeds@umich.edu.

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Social Hour Details

UMRA Social Hours are held most months during the academic year on second-Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5 PM. All U-M retirees and their guests are cordially invited to attend. The gatherings usually include light refreshments—coffee, sliced fruit, cookies, and soft drinks. Social Hour programs begin at 3:15 PM and continue until about 5:00 PM. Announcements about speakers and programs are made in this newsletter, in University Record Events notices, and at www.hr.umich.edu/umra/, the UMRA web site.

Meeting Locations

Social Hour gatherings are held at the Best Western Hotel, 2900 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. Parking is plentiful, and easy access to the meeting room is gained by using the Ballroom entrance at the rear of the building. Handicap access is good. Other venues will be used from time to time. Please check the meeting notices on Page 1 to find the latest information.

The University of Michigan Retirees Association Newsletter
G-250 Wolverine Tower, 3003 South State, Ann Arbor MI 48109

The Wolverine Tower building is located at the intersection of
Eisenhower Blvd. and S. State St. Parking is available nearby.

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A Message from Marty Eichstadt, Director of Benefits, HRAA

Friends,

Preparations for the array of health plans to be offered in 2008 are being finalized. The University continues its commitment to providing high-quality and comprehensive health benefits in its 2008 plan choices.

The Benefits Office is according to schedule as we plan for the next Open Enrollment period, Oct. 8-19. At that time, benefits-eligible faculty, staff, retirees and survivors will choose their benefits to be effective from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2008. The annual Retiree Health Fair will be on September 10, at the Marriott Eagle conference Center In Ypsilanti. More information to come.

As most of you know, the University sold the M-CARE plan to Blue Care Network. I want to provide you with early information on the new plan to replace the M-CARE HMO, which was the University's most popular health plan, as well as an update on the status of the additional health plan options to be offered to our community.

NEW PLAN REPLACES M-CARE HMO

Like its predecessor, the new plan, named the U-M Premier Care, will be one of our most cost-effective managed care options. It will be administered by Blue Care Network (BCN) of Michigan, but the plan and network will replicate, as closely as possible, the coverage and design of the M-CARE HMO. This plan differs from other commercially available BCN products and will be offered only at the University of Michigan.

The U-M plan will feature two tiers of access to providers. The first tier will provide continued access to the U-M providers in the current M-CARE network at the lowest out-of-pocket cost. The second tier will allow access to the rest of the BCN providers in Michigan with greater out-of-pocket expense and a referral from a first tier provider.

Premium rates will closely match the rates we would have expected for the M-CARE HMO in 2008 with normal annual increases. The monthly co-premium rates for all U-M plans are currently being determined with the vendors and the rates for each plan will be available on the Benefits Office Web site by

August, well in advance of Open Enrollment.

COMMUNITY BLUE PPO CONTINUES

The BCBSM Community Blue Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan offered since 2005 will also be available next year. This plan will continue to provide a cost-effective option for individuals who want access to a nationwide network of providers after the M-CARE PPO plan is discontinued at the end of 2007.

M-CARE POINT-OF-SERVICE (POS) AND PREFERRED PROVIDER ORGANIZATION (PPO) PLANS

These M-CARE POS and PPO plans will be discontinued at the end of 2007. Most of the providers in this plan can be accessed through the new Premier Health Care plan.

CARE CHOICES

Care Choices will be offered in 2008. Effective April 1, Care Choices was purchased by Priority Health, a Michigan-based nonprofit headquartered in Grand Rapids. The Care Choices name is expected to change to Priority Health in 2008. More information including participating hospitals and providers will be available from Priority Health by August, and we will make the information available to you well in advance of our Open Enrollment period. We do not expect major changes in the provider network in southeastern Michigan, but more providers in western Michigan may become available to plan members. More information can be found on the Priority Health Web site at <file:///www.priorityhealth.com/news-center/announcements/2007/ccmembers>

HEALTH ALLIANCE PLAN

The Detroit-based Health Alliance Plan (HAP) will continue to be offered in 2008.

COMPREHENSIVE MAJOR MEDICAL (CMM)

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan CMM plan will continue to be offered in 2008

I look forward to seeing you at the Retiree Health Fair on September 10th.

Marty Eichstadt

The University of Michigan Retirees
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