

Department of Personnel Services

Employee Benefits Office

Dave Comerchero,
Employee Benefits Manager



County of Sacramento

June 30, 2017

To: County Employees and Their Dependents Enrolled In Western Health Advantage with UC Davis Doctors,

A recent decision has been made by UC Davis to withdraw participation in the Western Health Advantage (WHA) HMO plan, one of three health plans available to County employees. UC Davis was a founding business partner in establishing WHA, and this marks a very significant retreat by UC Davis in the local market. Targeted letters from both WHA and UC Davis have been sent out to employees and any of their dependents who have Western Health Advantage for a medical plan and who have a UC Davis primary care physician indicating that UC Davis primary care services will no longer be available as of January 1, 2018.

Approximately 500 employees with WHA coverage have selected physicians in the UC Davis medical group. We do not know the number of impacted dependents. At this time, there is no current replacement medical plan that will allow County employees to continue seeing a UC Davis primary care physician on a regular basis after Jan 1, 2018. We are actively requesting quotes from other medical carriers on an urgent basis, but it is not immediately clear what criteria other carriers will require in order to quote our business given our current participation structure and the number of impacted participants.

For now, no immediate action needs to be taken while details are clarified and other options are researched. However, absent any new medical carrier or plan offering, impacted employees and dependents have two options to consider heading into 2018. First, employees could continue with WHA coverage and change their primary care physician to another medical group in WHA. A primary care physician change can be made at any time during the year directly with the WHA health plan and no life event or Open Enrollment election is needed in order to make a physician change. WHA will actively assist in the process, and they are establishing a dedicated transition team, phone number, and email to provide guidance later this month. Continuity of care situations receive special attention on a case by case basis.

The second alternative is to change medical plans at Open Enrollment to either Kaiser or Sutter for January 2018 coverage. The Benefits Office will be coordinating with all three carriers to assist in this transition at Open Enrollment, and provide as much support as possible as more information is clarified.

Thank You.

Dave Comerchero
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