

Items of Interest From:

SWCD of Illinois Insurance



Trying Something New

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Hello All! Yes it is me again, being a pain in your side and sending you more information than you know what to do with about your insurance. But that is what they pay me to do, right? You have seen some of my e-mails and you can tell I like to come very close to over-informing you about issues with your health, life and disability insurance policies. It is almost a fault of mine. But there is a method to my madness in that I want you all to stay informed and up to date on what is happening when it happens.

So, with that being said, I have decided to roll out a short newsletter from time-to-time to just answer a few of the lingering questions and share some things with you which you might not realize about your policies. I will try to cover some of the basics as well as some of the "fine print" advantages (or not) of them as well.

I would like to incorporate your questions as well because I know that if one of you is wondering about something, then maybe more of you are and this is the forum to use to get those an-

swers out.

I promise I will keep these light, short and easy to understand and I am fortunate to have a great team backing me at Central Management Services, The Standard, and our own Insurance Committee. So bear with me and please feel free to send me your comments and suggestions along with all those questions!

Thanks so much for your patience with me as well as I continue to learn new things regarding your insurance coverage!

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Taking your life policy with you
- ✓ Reporting requirements for 2013 W-2
- ✓ ACA not so scary
- ✓ Healthlink videos
- ✓ Don't forget this stuff!

Life Insurance Portability

All full-time employees with Illinois Soil and Water Conservation districts who are working at least 37 hours per week are eligible to participate in the life insurance program through The Standard insurance company. That coverage can range from the basic provided coverage of \$15,000 to additional coverage of up to \$300,000. It can also be purchased by the employee to cover spouses and children of the employee. That coverage remains in effect until the employee leaves his or her position with the district, or until they become ineligible for the insurance (dropping below 25 hours per week). At that time, the employee has 31 days to convert the policy into a self-pay one with Standard. The request must be made to the company in writing and once the conversion is made, the employee is responsible for paying the premiums directly to the company, rather than to the insurance administrator. For a copy of the life insurance policy, please see the MCSWCD website at www.montswcd.com. Standard can also be reached by phone at : (800) 378.4668 x6785.

Reporting Health Premiums for 2013

I am still trying to get clarification on if we are required to list health care premiums on the W-2s we will prepare for 2013. I know Diann Reed at CMS intends to provide us with the information again and it will likely not be until around or after the first of the year. It will, however, be in time to get your forms out before the deadline.

For those of you already planning to report this amount on your W-2s, you will do so by listing the amount on line 12 and you will code it DD. The amounts will not be reported on your W-3, however.

Employees on Managed Care who **are not carrying dependents** will use the figure \$9,924.00. Employees who are on Quality Care **with no dependents** will use the figure \$11,088.00. Information for individuals who are carrying dependents can be obtained from me once the list is sent out.



Affordable Care Act

I have had a lot of questions in the last few months about the law and how it will affect our health insurance coverage, premiums and benefits. I have one answer: our health insurance coverage through the Local Government Health Plan with the State of Illinois meets or exceeds the requirements set forth by the Affordable Care Act or "Obamacare". This is great news! It means you should feel secure in continuing as usual with your health, dental and vision care needs.

In April, Annyce, Rich and I will attend an informational meeting with CMS to learn our ratings from the past year and to see if our premiums have changed. For 2013 we maintained our B+ rating and saw no increase in premiums. I am hopeful to maintain that rating or even improve upon it and see a decrease in premiums.

Provider Spotlight—Healthlink

Healthlink has a wide variety of health and wellness videos on their website. They range in everything from everyday health information, to knowing your numbers, to costs and choices of your health care benefits, to managing stress and everything in between. If you get a chance, check them out at www.healthlink.com!



When Making Changes:

Here are the items I need if you have made any life changes such as marriage, divorce, address change, work location change, addition of a dependent, deletion of a dependent, change of beneficiary, change in work hours, etc:

- Personnel Status Form
- LGHP Correction Form
- Life/LTD Enrollment/Change Form
- STD Enrollment/Change Form

Please double check with me if you are not sure which forms to send!! All forms are available on my website as well at www.montswcd.com

