

IMPORTANT NOTICE

EMERGENCY ROOM \$50 COPAYMENT IMPLEMENTED

Prior to April, 1, 2008, there was no co-payment required for hospital emergency room services. Effective April 1, 2008, there will be a \$50.00 co-payment requirement for each visit to a hospital emergency room. However, this co-payment requirement will be waived if the hospital emergency room visit is due to an accidental injury, or if the patient is admitted to the hospital.

Emergency room co-payments are common plan design requirements to encourage members to utilize the appropriate services when a troubling health condition arises. Oftentimes, emergency rooms are not used for true emergencies. Non-urgent symptoms, like those of a cold or the flue, should be evaluated at a physician's office, not the emergency room. Accidental injuries or serious illnesses are instances that require immediate care and an appropriate visit to the emergency room.

If you have any questions concerning the new co-payment requirement please contact the Benefit Office at 1-888-390-7473.