

SHCC Meeting Notes
Meeting date: March 31, 2016
From Kathleen McCoy

Plan impact on members

The SHCC received a briefing from Erika Van Flein and David Hinkley (Lockton) of the same plan impact materials that they presented first to JHCC on March 25. Their report was a request from the February JHCC for data analysis showing impact of 125% Medicare allowable charge for out-of-network providers. This change when into effect July 1, 2016. JHCC members heard from constituents about high balance billing events.

That analysis convinced the JHCC to write and approve this recommendation to UA's CHRO:

Motion 16.3: The Joint Health Care Committee recommends that the University of Alaska Chief Human Resources Officer implement an increase in the non-contracted provider reimbursement from 125% to 200% of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) starting 1 July 2016.

This is made only as a recommendation to the University. At SHCC, Erika mentioned that UA Legal is waiting to hear if the state employee plan will be moving to \$125% Medicare as UA currently is. So no word yet on whether allowable charge will move to 200% of Medicare with the new plan year.

The JHCC also discussed whether plan members under the FY16 allowable charge strategy should be provided some allowances. Erika counseled against reprocessing claims as a certain nightmare for the health plan member. She noted that some balance billing has been written off by providers already.

Based on her suggestions, JHCC settled on having Premiera reach out to plan members experiencing issues to encourage connection to Patient Care, the auxiliary patient advocacy service paid for by the university to assist with medical billing issues. Patient Care could double check their bills and make sure that all the paperwork is correct. They could also ask providers on behalf of the patient to consider a write off of some or all of the balance billing.

Some of the spreadsheets from Erika and David's reports are attached to the JHCC March 25 report made to this body as well. Not reattaching them here.

Healthroads update

You'll find this update attached here. One thing you may find interesting is a breakdown on which employee groups are most using the wellness incentive, \$600 rebate opportunity. Unrepresented staff are by far the highest users.

Health plan premium rate increase

(Of note, occurred after this JHCC meeting.)

JHCC had voted to apply \$1Million of the over recovery toward health plan FY17 premium rates, keeping them almost the same as fy16. But in the process of working up materials for open enrollment, UA benefits discovered a math error. The over-recovery was applied twice, incorrectly. So now, with the over-recovery applied correctly, the health premium rates will be going up nearly 11% for almost every plan for FY17. UA Benefits is still prepping materials for open enrollment, but this was an early head's up on this development. Attached, find the health plan premium spreadsheet by health plan type. This chart is attached.

Lastly, Statewide Voice story on health plan consumerism

This [story](#) helps explain how consumers can use some plan benefits to keep their costs lower when facing either high costs: Patient Care and the medical travel benefit. Please share the link widely.