This email is being sent to all Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) benefit-eligible employees.

Open Enrollment for the 2024 plan year will be occurring November 1 – 30, 2023. Health Care Authority (HCA) has begun sending out information via email distribution or by US mail that includes important information you will need to be aware of as you are considering your health plan elections for the new year.

The medical plan premiums will be changing, with some plans having significant increases. HCA has provided a summary flyer of the 2024 plan changes, which includes the new 2024 premiums rates for employees and retirees (Medicare and non-Medicare eligible). We want to call attention to a few specific changes that may impact you in 2024.

- Kaiser WA First Fill program: HRS Benefits, HCA and Kaiser WA received significant feedback on the Kaiser WA maintenance drug change for 2023 “First Fill”, where maintenance drugs were required to be filled via the mail order service after the first fill. This program is being discontinued for 2024, and all maintenance drugs may be filled at your regular pharmacy starting January 1, 2024.

- Premium rate changes: The Uniform Medical plans will see some plans decrease in premiums, with others increasing slightly. The Kaiser WA plan premiums will all be increasing, and the Kaiser NW plans will have significant increases in premiums overall.

As a reminder, the Uniform Plans are available state-wide and to our out-of-state employees, with the exception of UMP Plus. The Kaiser WA plans are available in most counties in Washington and bordering Idaho counties, with the exception of the SW corner of Washington and some rural counties. The Kaiser NW plan is available in the SW corner of Washington. See Medical Plans available by county.
Later this Fall, HCA and the WSU HRS Benefits Unit will provide additional information on these and other coverage changes, including offering informational presentations to help staff and faculty evaluate their current plan and learn more about the other plans offered, as you weigh your options for the new year.

If you have questions, please contact HRS Benefits at hrs.benefits@wsu.edu or 509-335-4589.