

Tobacco Surcharge delayed until 2011

The State Insurance Committee approved a plan to implement a monthly \$50 tobacco surcharge and incentive program to employees, spouses, or retirees who are enrolled in a state medical plan. This surcharge has been postponed by the State of Tennessee until January 1, 2011. On June 16, 2009, the General Assembly passed a new law (SB0205/HB0280), which delays the Tobacco Surcharge until 2011. The project is currently planned to pick up during the Annual Enrollment Period in 2010. Insured employees will be notified regarding the process at that time.

This delay will not effect those currently using the “quit aids.” Employees who are using the quit aids will be able to continue purchasing the products for a \$5 co-pay until **December 31, 2009**. Employees who wish to continue the journey to a smoke free lifestyle, please work with your physicians and available quit aids to assist you during this process.



Secova, Inc. to verify dependent eligibility

The State of Tennessee Benefits Administration has contracted with Secova, Inc to perform the daunting task of verifying dependents eligibility for State insurance coverage.

This includes all UT employees with family health or dental coverage. Letters were mailed from Secova beginning July 6, 2009 to explain the process and deadline to return documentation. The easiest form to prove dependent eligibility would be your 2008 **1040 tax** form that shows all dependents and spouse. If you have trouble finding or providing any of the required documentation, contact Secova, at 1-877-793-3589 for assistance. Secova will suggest other documents you can provide in lieu of the options listed on the paperwork you received.

All employees must respond to Secova by September 4, 2009. After the deadline, the contract with Secova will end and the Benefits Administration will receive a listing of all employees who did not respond. Any employee who fails to respond or verify dependents will have dependents dropped on a date that will be determined by the Benefits Administration. There are FAQ's on page 4 of the newsletter to help with some of your questions.



The Sick Leave Bank increases membership with 74 new members.

During the open enrollment for the Sick Leave Bank, 74 employees donated 24 hours of their sick leave to become members of the bank. The new members increase the number of members to 713. All new applicant memberships were effective July 1. If you have not joined the bank, you are encouraged to join during the next open enrollment April –June 2010. For more information about the bank, visit the HR website: <http://www.utmem.edu/hr/Benefits/sick.htm>

It's Lichterman Award Nomination time again!

Nominations for the twenty-third annual Thomas Connell Lichterman Outstanding Employee Award are now being accepted on-line at http://www.utmem.edu/lichterman_award. The deadline for submission of nominations is August 14, 2009.

The award was established by friends and family of the late Tommy Lichterman, a UT Medical Group Inc. employee. Tommy refused to be limited by health problems and reached beyond the scope of his job duties to achieve excellence. By placing a nomination, you can give recognition to someone who deserves special accolades for a job well done and whose efforts have made the university a better institution. Employees eligible must be non-exempt, full-time employees of UTHSC and UT Medical Group Inc., as well as family medicine employees of St. Francis, Jackson and Tipton sites. Nominees must have completed three years of service. Self nominations, anonymous nominations and previous winners are not eligible.

Between July 1st and August 14th UTHSC People Search can be used to nominate UTHSC employees for the Lichterman Award. To submit a nomination, enter the name of the person that you wish to nominate in the search box on the main page of the UTHSC website. A return search will display all persons with the name that you entered. Click on the appropriate person's name. The next screen will provide detailed information on your proposed nominee. Click at the bottom of this page to proceed on the nomination. Next you will be asked to enter your NetID and NetID password. Next you will press the "Submit Nomination" button. The next screen confirms your nomination.

Please call Linda Risby (901-448-8211) or the Office of Equity and Diversity (901-448-2112) for more information.

Welcome to our new hires and those promoted to full-time positions!

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May

Colby Butzon

Jack Drake

Denise Fort

Leslie Gray

Yue Huang

Ellen Hubbard

Jill Nault

Joshua Waggoner

June

Kanwaljeet Anand

Netasha Bowers

Eddie Brunson

Emmanuel Chapp-Jumbo

Leslie Murphy

Alturi Vignathi

Yu Zhao

July

Swathi Ahuja

Jeffrey Allen

Shirley Brown

Sylvester Brown

Carolyn Clark

Sandra Cohen

Anthony Davis

Dwight Dishmon

Nabeel Farooqui

Joaquin Santolaya-Forgas

Frank Gaparata

Ravpreet Gill

Steven Goldberg

Salil Goorha

Shannon Guyot

Jon Ver Halen

Ashok Jayashankar

Salil Joshi

Ravi Kudumula

Christopher Ledbetter

Fang Lei

Michael Miles

Kolawole Oyelese

Xavier Packianathan

Thang Piang

Myra Rogers

Andreas Schwingshacki

Sridhar Shankar

Jacqueline Sharp

Rosilee Smart

James Stamps

Somchan Vuthipadadon

Kevin Wheatley

UPCOMING TRAINING/EVENTS FROM THE BENEFITS OFFICE

Workers Compensation: 7/30/09 2pm

FMLA/Sick Leave Bank Update Class: 8/6/09 10am

TIAA/CREF Representative one on one meetings: 8/4; 8/5 (by appointment only)

To register and for locations, visit: <http://www.utmem.edu/hrtraining/>

