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CORRESPONDENCE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 30, 2014
TO: Group Insurance Board
FROM: Tarna Hunter, Legislative Liaison
SUBJECT: Legislative Update

This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.

This memorandum provides information on pertinent legislative issues to the Group Insurance Board (Board).

The following legislation, introduced this session, impact the Board or the programs it oversees.

Legislation Recently Passed

- **2013 Wisconsin Act 111** – The Act provides that doctors would have to inform patients only about treatment options a reasonable doctor would know or disclose under the circumstances. Doctors would not be required to disclose information about alternate modes of treatment for conditions the physician has not included in his or her diagnosis at the time the physician informs the patient.
- **2013 Wisconsin Act 186** – The Act prohibits health insurance policies and self-insured governmental and school district health plans that cover injected or intravenous and oral chemotherapy from requiring the insured to pay a higher copayment, deductible, or coinsurance for oral chemotherapy than is required for injected or intravenous chemotherapy. A health insurance policy or plan may not comply with the prohibition by increasing the copayment, deductible, or coinsurance for intravenous or injected chemotherapy that is covered under the policy or plan. A policy or plan that limits copayments to no more than \$100 for a 30-day supply of oral chemotherapy medication is considered to be in compliance with the parity requirement and the \$100 limit is allowed to be adjusted for inflation beginning in 2016. If the health plan is a high deductible

Reviewed and approved by Robert J. Conlin, Secretary

Electronically Signed:
05/02/2014

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health plan, the copayment, deductible or coinsurance requirements apply only after the plan's deductible has been satisfied. The effective date of the law is January 1, 2015.

Other Pending Legislation

The following bills were introduced this session, but were not passed by the full Legislature. It is unlikely the bills will be considered in a special or extraordinary session. The legislation will need to be reintroduced next session if the legislature intends to take action on them.

- **2013 AB 216 (Jacque) and 2013 SB 202 (Grothman)** – The bills prohibit the group insurance board from contracting for or providing abortion services, except to save the life of the woman or in a case of sexual assault or incest. The bills also exempt religious employers, religious organizations, and religious institutions of higher education from contraceptive insurance coverage. The bill was passed by the full Assembly and was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, which passed both bills 3-2. The full Senate did not take action on this bill.
- **2013 AB 331 (Wachs)** – The bill repeals the 2013 Act 20 requirement that OSER and ETF jointly study the feasibility of excluding from state employee health insurance coverage a spouse or domestic partner who has health insurance available from his or her employer and evaluate the creation of a \$2,000 incentive payment program for state employees that opt not to take health insurance through the state. The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Finance. ETF and OSER are in the process of preparing this report, which must be submitted to the Governor and the Joint Committee on Finance no later than June 30, 2014. This bill did not receive a hearing this session.
- **2013 AB 557 (Ott)** – This bill is a technical fix eliminating obsolete language related to University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority (UWHCA) and health insurance premium credits. It eliminates a statutory provision that relates to UWHCA employees whose compensation is established in a collective bargaining agreement under the "Employment Peace Act." 2011 Wisconsin Act 10 eliminated the part of the Employment Peace Act that allowed collective bargaining for employees of the UWHCA, thereby making this statutory provision obsolete. The bill was passed by the full Assembly, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, which passed it 3-2. The full Senate did not take action on this bill.

Staff will be at the Board meeting to answer any questions.