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Correspondence Memorandum

Date: July 16, 2019
To: Group Insurance Board
From: Arlene Larson, Manager of Federal Health Programs & Policy
 Office of Strategic Health Policy
Subject: 2020 Medicare Advantage Life Change Events

The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) recommends the Group Insurance Board (Board) approve the following, effective January 1, 2020:

Modify the new Medicare life change event¹ to allow only participants insured under a retiree contract to change health plans within 30 days of enrollment in or disenrollment from Medicare Part A and/or Part B. Employees would not be permitted this life change event.


Background

At its February 20, 2019 Board meeting, the Board approved ETF's recommendation to create a new Medicare life change event¹ to allow participants to change health plans within 30 days of enrollment in or disenrollment from Medicare Part A and/or Part B, effective the date of the Medicare enrollment or disenrollment.

ETF recommended the new life change event based on feedback indicating that retirees want the opportunity to enroll in the Medicare Advantage plan offered by UnitedHealthcare® mid-year, when they become eligible for and enrolled in Medicare.

ETF's original recommendation permitted this change for all participants, including those covered under an employee policy. However, we have since learned that several employer system changes would be required in order to accommodate this change. Therefore, ETF requests the Board approve this revised recommendation to permit only retirees to be eligible for this new Medicare life event change.

¹ Life Change Event: An event that allows a subscriber to make certain changes to health insurance coverage outside of the It's Your Choice Open Enrollment period.

Reviewed and approved by Eileen K Mallow, Director, Office of Strategic Health Policy
 Electronically Signed 7/29/19

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Because Medicare Advantage is not available to employees, and because the employee's share of the premium does not change when they gain Medicare, ETF believes this change will not cause concern with employees. ETF will monitor employee input in 2020 and may bring this back to the Board in the future.

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