

## Basic Health to increase premiums in 2010

As a result of our reduced budget, Basic Health announced it will increase member premiums beginning January 1, 2010 rather than removing eligible members from the plan.

In October, members will receive Open Enrollment information. This is the time of year when all members are given the opportunity to change health plans and review changes for the upcoming plan year.

At that time, a table listing the health plans available in counties throughout the state and the associated premium effective January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 is provided. Members will need to let Basic Health know if they want to make any changes to their account.

## WPDP Prescription Drug Discount Card

The Washington Prescription Drug Program (WPDP) offers a discount card that may help you with your prescription needs. This free discount card is for Washington residents with no insurance, medical coverage but no prescription drug benefit, or have restrictive pharmacy benefits through their employer. There is no annual fee and no income or age criteria to meet. Every Washington resident is eligible to enroll and benefit from the savings.

To enroll, go online at [www.rx.wa.gov](http://www.rx.wa.gov) or call 1-800-913-4146.

If you have questions about WPDP discount card, call 1-800-913-4311.



## Medical assistance and other programs available through DSHS

Due to recent changes in state law (SHB 2341), BH is now required to identify members potentially eligible for other medical assistance with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). BH will work with DSHS to move BH enrollees eligible for medical assistance to that coverage.

Through DSHS, a variety of medical assistance programs are available, which may cost members less and include expanded health benefits.

In addition to medical assistance, DSHS can help offset other expenses to include food and child care.

To see what programs you or a family member may qualify for at DSHS, go online to the trial eligibility calculator at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/TEC/>.

This site will allow you to:

- Complete an online application,
- Download an application to mail in, or
- Locate your local Community Service office.

If you do not have internet access and would like to apply for DSHS coverage, please call 1-877-514-3663.

# Health Care for Veterans

*Did you ever serve in the U. S. Military? If so, you may be eligible to receive health care from the Federal VA.*

Did you know...

- Eligibility for most veterans' health care benefits is based on active military service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard (or Merchant Marines during WW II), and discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.
- Reservists and National Guard members who were called to active duty by a Federal Executive Order may qualify for VA health care benefits.
- Returning service members, including Reservists and National Guard, who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations have special eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for five years following discharge from active duty.
- Health Care eligibility is not just for those who served in combat and health care is not just for service-connected injuries or medical conditions.
- The VA also offers full-service health care to women veterans.



If you have applied before and were placed in "Priority Group 8", the good news is that the Federal VA has increased the income thresholds and you may now be eligible for health care services.

Call the Federal VA toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., eastern time or find out more online at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

Your Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs is also here to serve you!

Visit us at [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov) or call 1-800-562-2308 and talk with a benefits specialist about the benefits and services you may be entitled to.

## Keep Your Information Up to Date

Basic Health receives returned mail. To make sure you have the most current information about Basic Health and your account, it is important that we can contact you. If you move, please remember to call us at 1-800-660-9840 to report your change of mailing address.

## Just a Reminder:

- Contact your health plan about medical issues
- Contact Basic Health about your eligibility, or changes to your address, family size, or income