

Health Reform and Your Benefits

As you know, the House of Representatives passed the Senate health care bill and a reconciliation bill on Sunday, March 21, 2010. This bill has significant implications for employers who offer health care benefits and the employees and families covered by those plans.

We know you have a lot of questions and concerns about health care reform and how the legislation will impact your benefits. We have been closely following the health care reform legislation and the implications for our employee benefit programs. However, since there were so many last-minute changes by the House this weekend and because the Senate bill passed in December also had so many complex provisions, it will take us some time to evaluate exactly what the legislation means for us. While some provisions will take effect later this year (and most of those items are already addressed in our plans), many of the major provisions will not take effect for several years. Some provisions could even change between now and when the bill is signed into law.

We will provide updated information to you as soon as we can, but expect this could take several months. For the most updated information, visit the benefits website at www.pebcinfo.com. While we all evaluate the new legislation, remember, health care reform will not change our commitment to competitive benefits that support your health and wellness—today and in the future.