OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

HEALTHCARE COST CONTAINMENT COMMITTEE



HEALTHCARE POLICY & BENEFIT SERVICES DIVISION 165 CAPITOL AVENUE HARTFORD, CT 06106

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DIVISION MEMORANDUM 2021-13 TO THE HEADS OF ALL STATE AGENCIES

December 6, 2021

ATTENTION: Personnel and Payroll Officers, Chief Administrative and Fiscal

Officers, and Benefits Managers

SUBJECT: Medical Flexible Spending Account Program—Update on

Carryover Limits from Plan Year 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

This memorandum announces the temporary revision of policies affecting the Medical Flexible Spending Account Plan (MEDFLEX) as authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

During 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented many employees from spending funds set aside in because of disruptions in-person medical or dental care. As a result, many employees ended the plan year with unused funds that would otherwise be forfeited without this relief. Last year we permitted plan members to carry over the full amount of any unused fund from the 2020 Plan Year. The decision has been made to extend this relief to the 2021 Plan Year as well.

II. TEMPORARY PROVISIONS AFFECTING MEDICAL FLEXIBLE SPENDING PLAN

Under current Plan rules, MEDFLEX funds in excess of \$550 would be forfeited if a plan member employee failed to submit claims for reimbursement by March 31, 2022. The Comptroller has authorized a plan amendment, which will give employees an opportunity to use MEDFLEX funds set aside for medical/dental services in 2021 during the 2022 Plan Year. An employee who enrolled in the MEDFLEX for Plan Year 2022 will have all unspent 2021 Plan Year funds carried over to his/her account balance in the plan.

Employees who did not enroll in MEDFLEX for Plan Year 2022, will continue to have access to all unspent funds from Plan Year 2021; however, to avoid the administrative expense of carrying inactive MEDFLEX accounts with small balances. we will continue the practice of forfeiting any unused balance of less than \$25.00 as of March 31, 2022

III. CHANGE OF PLAN ADMINISTRATOR

The new plan administrator, TASC, will be assuming responsibility for plan operations effective January 1, 2022. You should receive your TASC debit cards in the coming weeks. There will be a brief period at the beginning of the 2022, when there will be a "blackout" on processing reimbursements for 2021 expenses. This is needed to accommodate the transfer of data from the current administrator to TASC. You will be notified when the blackout ends. The blackout will not affect your ability to use your TASC debit card or online portal for reimbursement of 2022 expenses after January 1st.

CONCLUSION

Please make sure that your agency's employees get this information so that they are aware of the flexibility provided by this amendment.. Questions pertaining to this memorandum may be directed to the Healthcare Policy & Benefit Services Division, Employee Benefits Unit at Osc.ebu@ct.gov.

Very truly yours,

Thomas C. Woodruff, Ph.D., Director

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