

JULY 2010 NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Health Care Reform</i>	1
<i>Short Term Coverage</i>	1

Lines of Coverage we offer:

- Employee Benefits
- Commercial Liability & Property
- Workers' Compensation
- Individual & Family Health
- Life
- Disability
- Long Term Care
- Dental & Vision
- Annuities
- HSA Plans

We're on Facebook! Check us out at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Westlake-Village-CA/Walden-Associates-Insurance-Ser-vices/118429164863488?ref=sgm&ajaxpipe=1&a=9>



HEALTH CARE REFORM IN 2010



There has been quite a lot of press about health care reform as it relates to the new bill approved by Congress this year. Not surprisingly, there is an equal amount of confusion as to what happens next. In this section, we'd like to distill a few important points that will affect you **this year** as a result of implementing new reforms. There are five main areas that are changing:

- ◆ New recision rules for children (under age 19) for health plans
- ◆ New rules for children (under age 19) with pre-existing conditions
- ◆ Coverage extension for children (under age 26) on parent group plans
- ◆ Changes in lifetime coverage limits
- ◆ Changes in annual coverage limits

The above five categories will affect you in 2010. Broader changes are coming to health care, but will be phased in over the course of time until 2014.

The one area that most people will feel the change is in dependent children being allowed to remain on your employer sponsored group plan. If you have a child under age 26, they can remain on your group plan as of September 1. Many carriers are allowing this change prior to September 1. If you aren't sure if your plan will accommodate your child, give us a call and we'll find out for you.

If your child has a pre-existing condition and they are under the age of 19, their coverage can't be recinded, or terminated. It also can't be restricted due to the pre-existing condition. This particular change is going into force on or upon renewal, on or after September 23. For individual plans, this change will take place likely in January of 2011.

Lastly, annual and lifetime coverage limits are changing. As of September 23, or upon renewal after this date for group plans, lifetime limits on essential health benefits and annual coverage limits on essential health benefits will no longer be allowed. However, the definition of what falls into the category of "essential benefits" is still being explored. Individual plans will be affected as of January 2011. We will continue to update you on this as more information become available.

TEMPORARY OR SHORT TERM INSURANCE

Did you know short term coverage is available for days as well as for months at a time? This is ideal for those who are traveling, those who have just graduated from school, or those who are unemployed and are not on COBRA/Cal-COBRA.

Short term plans can be purchased from a variety of carriers nationally. International coverage is also available. With a wide array of deductible levels, this kind of coverage can be affordable and within your reach.

Give us a call to discuss your particular needs and we'll be glad to get you a quote.

